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π attacks!

NIC HUME PHOTO

Near the end of last Thursday's debate, The Order of Pi found both chair candidates guilty of "taking student politics too seriously" and sentenced them to be pied.

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Campaign promises, slogans and a pie or two flew across the stage at last Thursday's debate between the two contenders for the position of chair of the UVSS.

Joanna Groves and Dallas Henault went head to head, pitting Henault's Students for Change (SFC) slate against Groves' Putting Students First (PSF) at the face-off debate hosted by *the Martlet*.

In an election that seems to be boiling down to provincial political allegiances, Thursday's match-up gave the 60-person audience a chance to see who they must choose between: the BC Liberal-loving Henault or the card-carrying New Democrat Groves.

"What I do in my own life is my business," said Henault, trying to convince students his connection to the provincial Liberal party wouldn't influence him as chair. Henault played down his political affiliations and refused to say which party he supports, citing it as irrelevant.

Groves said she doesn't see how it is possible for Henault to support both the Liberal provincial government and represent students. "If people have certain political interests in their lives then we need to look at that when we vote," she said.

"For example," she continued, referring to Henault's work with UVic's BC Young Liberal club, "if you're sending out press releases congratulating the government on eliminating student grants and putting that money back into the university for capacity, and then saying that somehow you're going to fight the eliminations when you get elected as chairperson—I don't think that adds up."

Henault retorted by asking about Groves' own political affiliations and continued to insist that his personal political beliefs would not influence him as chairperson. "I might be mistaken," he said, "but I don't believe this is a BC Liberal-NDP debate. This is a chairperson debate, and I believe that what happens in my personal life stays in my personal life."

Groves responded by calling Henault's platform "wishy-washy and non-committal."

Henault said, if elected, he will do what students ask him to. "I would lobby," he said. "I would not continue the tactics of the past. I would not go protest. I would sit down and have a discussion with government."

Tensions in room were eased with several comedic interventions. The highlight came when robe-clad engineers marched into the room and, with great ceremony, smashed two vanilla cream pies into the faces of the candidates.

The Order of Pi, a group of engineering students raising money for the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children, was called to the debate to try the politicians for "taking student politics far too seriously." Both candidates were found guilty.

READ ABOUT THE ELECTION WEEK'S BEST AND WORST PAGES 4 & 5

Women's day sparks walkout

This International Women's Day advocates are protesting cuts to funding for women

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Advocates in Victoria plan to celebrate International Womens' Day this year by returning to their radical roots. On March 8 they will walk out of their homes and jobs in solidarity with marginalized women.

For an event born from the struggle of labour organizations during the early years of the 20th century, perhaps it's only fitting. The "Womyn's Walkout" will correspond with similar protests held around the world in countries like India, Ireland and Peru.

The protest is also a follow-up to another walkout held in December by the Status of Women Action Group (SWAG), when a small but spirited group marched through the streets of Victoria to the legislature.

"It was to make the point our economy relies on cheap or unpaid work," said Cindy L'Hirondelle from SWAG.

She added that the current political climate in B.C. disproportionately affects women. Other groups such as the UVic Women's Centre will join SWAG in the protest.

"We are hit the hardest by cutbacks. We're now expected to do more community and unpaid work," said L'Hirondelle. Among the protesters' demands is a guaranteed livable income.

She added women are more vulnerable to violence during times of economic uncertainty, giving the example of a woman who is out of money and who may be forced to hitchhike home.

The SWAG office itself is feeling the effects of provincial cuts. Like many other support centres for women, their core funding has been discontinued.

PROVIDED IMAGE

The anonymous "revolutionary union" symbol has frequented placards and pamphlets at women's rallies around the world since 1973.

The doors of SWAG will continue to stay open, but they're running entirely on volunteer labour for February and March.

They will continue their advocacy work, such as referring women who are trying to escape abusive relationships to doctors and supportive lawyers, but their services will likely soon become more membership driven, L'Hirondelle said.

L'Hirondelle understands why some people might not participate in the walkout.

"Maybe they can't walkout. People are so stretched thin they absolutely can't risk losing their jobs," she said.

There's scarce information about International Womens' Day on the B.C. government website–the most recent posting is an announcement from last year. The Minister of State for Women's and Seniors' Services Ida Chong said the government plans to celebrate International Womens' Day, but that plans had not yet been finalized.

L'Hirondelle said the provincial government's celebration of womens' day is ironic and cruel, since they've helped create the conditions that cause women to struggle. L'Hirondelle cites the plight of women in abusive relationships. "How can they leave when there's no welfare system to support them?" she asks.

At UVic, International Womens' Day will be examined from a global perspective with a lecture entitled "Advocating Women's Rights in Canada and the World, " by Susan Bazilli and Marilou McPhedran. Bazilli and McPhedran are two well-respected lawyers who have earned themselves accolades for their work on womens' issues, and as co-founders of the International Women's Rights Project. Past projects include working with womens' rights groups in Afghanistan.

"Fundamentally, womens' rights are human rights," said Laurel Sherret, secretary of the equity and human rights office on campus, who is helping organize the event. She said it's important to discuss women's issues since a glass ceiling still exists to prevent women from earning the same pay as men, but fewer people are willing to talk about it today.

"I feel it's a great opportunity if we can raise awareness. . . . There are things to do, and ways to do them."

The Womyn's Walkout begins at 10:30 a.m. outside the Victoria courthouse steps.

"Advocating Women's Rights" is at 6 p.m. in the Murray and Anne Fraser Building, room 159.

News briefs

UBC students sue over tuition fees

A dozen Masters of Business students at the University of British Columbia are suing the school over raised tuition fees.

The students claim their tuition was $7,000 when they registered for the program, then increased to $28,000 without due notice.

UBC lawyer Rod Seig said the students were aware of the tuition hike. The group of students hope to go to trial by May.

American wannabes

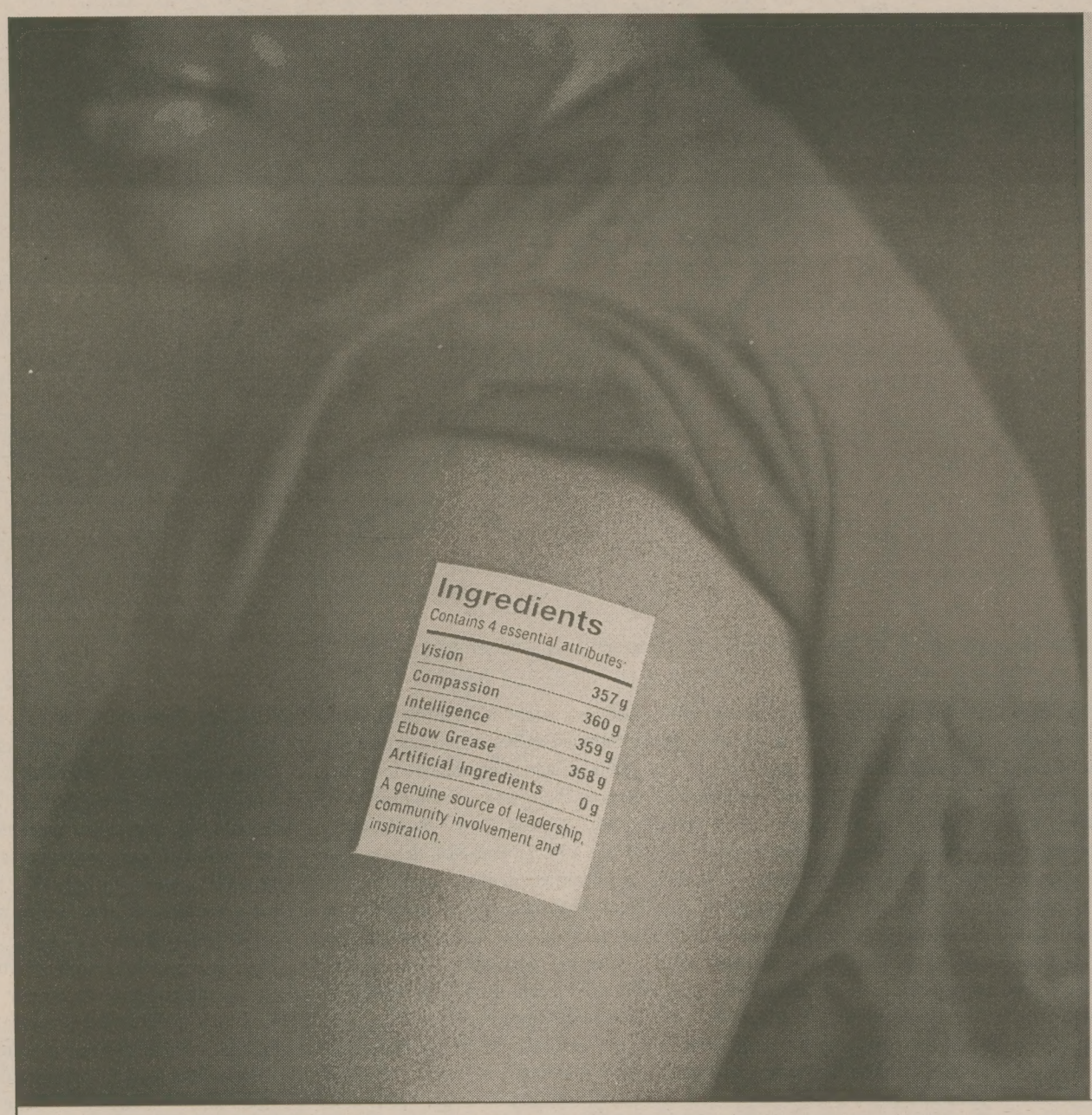
Isolated Saskatchewanians and Albertans are ready to join the U.S., according to a recent poll.

In the poll, conducted by the federal government, western lack of faith in government representation was shown to be incredibyly prevalent. The poll showed 23 per cent of people in Saskatchewan said they wouldn't care if they joined the United States. In Alberta and Quebec, 19 per cent expressed that view.

Western alienation reached disturbing levels just after Canada ratified the Kyoto protocol.

However, the research points to a sense among residents in almost all provinces that their interests and values are being ignored in Ottawa.

–S.P.



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Women's centres close their doors

BC Liberals claim they are not responsible for closing women's centres, they just won't fund them

by Patrick White

Nic Hume photo

The Port Alberni Women's Centre is one of the few women's resource centres in the province that won't have to shut down completely.

Provincial funding for all women's centres in British Columbia ends on March 31. Around the province, these hubs for women's services are preparing to close for good, putting the futures of thousands of women in question.

According to a recently deleted government webpage, women's centres are "the first place to go in your community when you need help in times of crisis."

That crisis help is about to disappear in many areas of British Columbia.

On the west coast of Vancouver Island, where small, isolated frontier towns fleck an otherwise inhospitable coastline, the Westcoast Women's Resource Centre serves a long stretch from Hot Springs Cove in the north to Ucluelet in the south. Margaret Morrison, executive director of the Ucluelet-based center, says the funding cuts mean she'll have to close the centre's doors and possibly cease her travels by car, boat and float plane to remote communities. "We will have to shut down. We never had any other government funding. Other stand-alone women's centres have access to gaming funds and grants from larger foundations and organizations. In our area we have only had core provincial funding."

The BC Liberal government maintains that some funding is still available to women's centres. "We advised women's centres two years ago to look for other funding. We told them we will no longer provide funding for advocacy and information services," said Ida Chong, minister of state for women's and senior's services. While grants and short-term contracts remain in place for women's centres working on government-approved projects, core funding of $47,174 to each of the 37 women's centres in the province has been eliminated from the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services budget.

"We're trying to find other ways of getting funding, but it's pretty hard to find operational funding in grants," said Marne Svennes, executive director for the Campbell River Women's Centre.

At the Status of Women Action Group (SWAG) office in Victoria, Executive Director Cindy L'Hirondelle said women's centre advocates are being punished for advocacy work that conflicts with provincial policy. "They [the provincial government] think, 'why should we be paying for people to speak out against us?'"

Minister Chong said she wasn't aware of any such consideration. "I wasn't there at the time of the decision," she said, referring to the elimination of funding for the centres.

Chong emphasized that the province continues to support transition houses, safe homes and other programs. "We continue to fund direct, essential services to women," she said. "Women's centres provide a variety of services, but the information they provide is available through other ways. We have a phone line and Internet sites that provide essential information."

Morrison said that in rural B.C., where everyone knows everybody, women's centres are the only anonymous way to find help.

One of the facilities expected to pick up slack in the wake of women's centre closures is already bursting at the seams. "We can't take on anymore," said Carolyn Fast, executive director for the Victoria Women's Transition House. "We are seeing an increase in pressure from the community in terms of needs."

The question remains: Where will women go when women's centres close? "I don't know," said Svennes. "It's pretty scary. There will be no women-only space anywhere in this community."

Svennes relayed the story of Rhonda, one women of many whose lives have been turned around by the Campbell River Women's Centre. Rhonda arrived in Campbell River in 1989. A friend referred her to the women's centre for assistance with an abusive relationship. Over several years she often crossed through their doors for peer support and workshops, and the centre eventually helped her find the strength to move into a transition house. "After that we introduced her to Narcotics Anonymous and she has been clean for 11 years. Now she's going to university to complete a degree," said Svennes. "In that case, we changed a life."

In Campbell River and elsewhere, women's centres have seen a jump in visits since the Liberal government took over in 2001. Most of the increased traffic consists of women looking for food, shelter and legal aid.

Like the Westcoast Women's Resource Centre, Svennes sees women from a huge geographical area. "We see women from as far as Sayward and Gold River. They won't have anyone if we have to close."

In Port Alberni, those who work at the women's centre consider themselves lucky. Because their location houses offices for a number of other social services, including those for victims of sexual abuse and children, they will not have to shut down completely. "We've lost one staff person already," said Executive Director of the Port Alberni Women's Resource Centre Anne Graboski.

"It will mean increased workloads for existing staff. Taking on extra tasks will be difficult if not impossible," she added.

Graboski worries about what women's centre closures will mean for other rural communities. "Nobody wants to say it out loud but I worry about whether we're going to see more suicides, more kids going into care and more women in sex trade. That's going to happen in rural communities.

"I think it's absolutely criminal."

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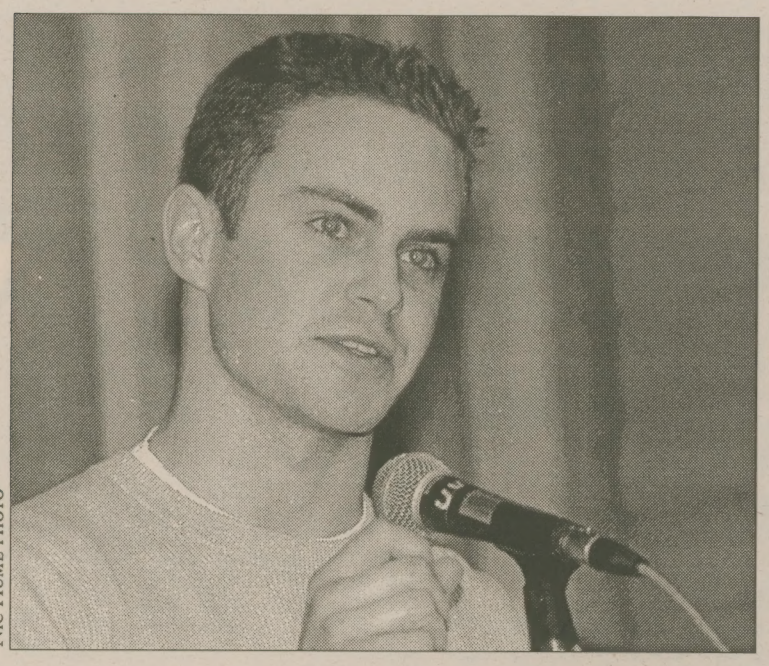
Election Week:

Elections seem to bring out the best and worst in people. This year, the UVic Students' Society elections provided no lack of drama. Candidates went head-to-head in charged debates, poster mayhem and on-campus canvassing. Pies were thrown, posters were torn and one candidate even made a



Nic Hume photo

Dallas Henault says his "thick skin" is not enough to endure attacks.

Dallas under fire: parts one and two

by Patrick White

Part one

For a student politician, UVic Students' Society Chair candidate Dallas Henault has been causing quite a stir in the provincial legislature lately.

First he sat behind Gary Collins while the Finance Minister delivered his budget speech in the legislature on Tuesday, Feb. 17, something his opponents running on the Putting Students First slate condemned because of the budget's promise to eliminate student grants. Then, last Wednesday, Feb. 25, provincial New Democratic Party leader Joy MacPhail quoted a leaked e-mail written by Henault addressing the UVic BC Young Liberals, of which he is president. The e-mail said that for $30, members could attend the Vancouver BC Young Liberal convention, "ferry, booze, hotel and all the good stuff included."

MacPhail wanted to know why the Liberals, considering recent questions raised over memberships and fundraising, were trying to lure members with "all the good stuff," a phrase she insinuated meant a promise of sex for those who attended, and if they'd instructed Henault to "clean up his act."

The question was ruled out of order by the speaker, Claude Richmond, because it did not deal with the workings of government.

Henault believes the NDP and pro-NDP members of the Putting Students First slate colluded in a smear campaign against him. "There's no doubt in my mind that there's a connection between the two. They were trying to discredit me in the legislature. The fact that it was leaked to *the Martlet* raises questions."

The Martlet was alerted by an anonymous tipster that a question concerning Dallas Henault would come up in legislature about half an hour before it took place.

"Everything I do is legal to the letter of the law, and never outside the law," added Henault.

Chair candidate with the opposing slate and Young New Democrat Joanna Groves dismissed Henault's suggestion that Putting Students First had worked with the NDP. "I honestly didn't even know about it until the next day," Groves said. "I was as surprised as anyone."

"I've been busy campaigning. My thoughts are directed at talking to students."

Jim Ritkowski, communications director for the provincial NDP, said he didn't even know Henault was running for any election when the email was read before the legislature. "If (Henault) thinks it was a personal smear, he's dreaming," said Ritkowski. "It was worth asking."

"She's (MacPhail) got more to work on in the legislature than student politics. It wasn't valid at all," Henault said.

Part two

An anti-Students for Change poster that appeared early Tuesday violates UVic Students' Society (UVSS) electoral policy, according to chair candidate Dallas Henault.

The full-colour posters, which show Henault sitting happily behind B.C. Finance Minister Gary Collins as the latter delivers his most recent budget speech to the legislature, appeared in a few buildings on campus.

The picture, lifted from Hansard, was headlined "GRANTS CUT WHILE DALLAS SMILES!"

Grants for post-secondary students were cut from the recent provincial budget.

The poster finished with "Don't let Henault use the UVSS as a platform to defend the BC Liberals tuition fee hikes and grant cuts. Vote NO to Dallas and the Students for Change."

Henault believes his opponents had something to do with the posters. "I put responsibility for this squarely on (opponent for chair) Joanna Groves and the CFS," he said.

Section 17c of the UVSS electoral policy states that candidates are responsible for all of their campaign material, including those they may not have put up or distributed, but of which they should be "reasonably aware."

Upon discovering the posters, Henault immediately made a formal complaint to Chief Electoral Officer Dave Nicholls. Because there was no way of knowing that Groves should have been "reasonably aware" of the posters, Nicholls said he couldn't take any action on the matter.

"If you can't do anything about it I'm telling Joanna to watch herself," said Henault to Nicholls when he heard the decision. "She'll probably come out crying. This is very serious."

Groves said she checked with all the members of her slate to make sure none of them were responsible. "It was definitely not from our slate or anyone affiliated with us," said Groves.

"I know that because I asked around to make sure that no one would do something that disrespectful or stupid."

Henault was convinced that Groves was responsible, saying that wording in the poster was very similar to statements his opponent made in an all-candidates meeting.

A number of people, some affiliated with the Putting Students First slate, approached *the Martlet* over the past two weeks suggesting an image of Dallas standing behind Collins would make a good cover. Every one of these people denied knowing who was behind the anti-Dallas posters.

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BEST AND WORST

name for himself at the Leg. As *the Martlet* office became a hub for campaign grievances over the week, we see it our duty to share with the campus the juicy highlights of a campaign that seemed to focus more on partisan politics and pizza than student concerns.

Poster bandits don't play nice

BY PATRICK WHITE

Over the weekend, the tattered remains of posters promoting the Putting Students First slate in the upcoming UVic Students' Society Elections served as a reminder that student politics is dirty business.

Unlike other mysteriously mislaid postersthat that went down in the days prior, the culprit of this vandalizing was caught red-handed by campus security.

At 11:17 p.m. on Feb.24, Campus Security apprehended Mike Allison defacing campaign posters promoting the Putting Students First slate. Allison had been running on the opposing Students For Change slate until he was disqualified by election coordinator Dave Nicholls for posting campaign materials on a list-serve prior to the start of official campaigning.

On the incident report recorded by campus security, Emery said that he was ripping down certain banners because it was part of politics and his own political beliefs. He went on to say that election candidates had been ripping each other's signs down.

Contacted on Monday, March 1, Allison apologized for his actions. "I do regret what I did," he said. "I would never do it again."

Allison did maintain that candidates from both slates had been ripping down each other's posters.

Students for Change chair candidate Dallas Henault distanced his slate from Allison. "I completely condemn the vandalizing of campaign materials in all regards by any party."

Henault said that since being disqualified Allison had not assisted with the Students For Change campaign at all.

Joanna Groves, the Putting Students First chair candidate, denied Allison's charge. "Putting Students First has not laid one finger on opponents' campaign materials. I said to our candidates at the beginning that we want to run a clean election and that all candidates should be respectful of election materials."

"Any allegations that we were tearing down opponent's posters are false and based on nothing."

Groves doesn't blame her opposition, but she is skeptical. "I don't think he did it on their (Students for Change) orders or behalf, but it is questionable."

Henault backs up Allison's claim, saying that earlier in the week some Students for Change posters were vandalized. "All our banners were down Tuesday. He (Allison) may have taken exception to that."

Henault said that one of his posters was found crumpled in a corner.

HONOURABLE MENTION: So we've focused more on the dirt than the meat of election week. But honestly, the former was dissapointingly much more prevalent. There were a few unsung heroes in the race and we'd like to give them props: Neal "Appeal" Evans for a rhyming speech and being one of the only members of Students for Change to remain active in the UVSS despite losses in two previous elections, April Griffin and K.H. "Renee" O'Leary for running as the only independents and Ingmar Lee for his campaign poster with UVic President David Turpin getting chomped by a dinosaur.

NIC HUME PHOTO

Joanna Groves wants to stay on as chair, despite a two year limit on executives.

Groves disregards policy

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Joanna Groves plans to stay on for a full term if elected as chair of the student union, contrary to a students' society bylaw that says she is ineligible to stand as an executive director by the end of November.

The UVSS Constitution and Bylaws states "Members of the Students' Society shall not be executive directors for more than two years."

Groves first took her executive post as services director in Dec. 2002, when the board appointed her after the resignation of two executives. She was elected as director of finance the following year.

If Groves were to resign in November, it's likely a new chair would be appointed by the rest of the board to avoid a costly mid-year election. This would leave an unelected chair responsible for running some of the most important student events of the year, like the annual February rally against rising tuition fees.

Groves said the spirit of the bylaw was to prevent executives from perpetually holding power, not to punish directors at large who are promoted to an executive post in mid-term.

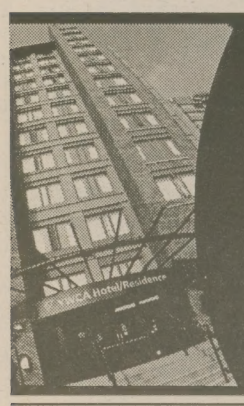
"I think it's a grey area," she said.

Groves added there are past precedents that support her position.

Teresa Sabourin was elected as chair in 1997 and served her entire term, exceeding two years as an executive. She was first nominated as services director in 1994-95 and was elected to the same position the following year.

When Groves was asked whether she would change the bylaw if elected, she said she was wary of the idea.

"I agree maybe it would be a good idea, but I can also picture *the Martlet* headline: Joanna Groves changes policy."



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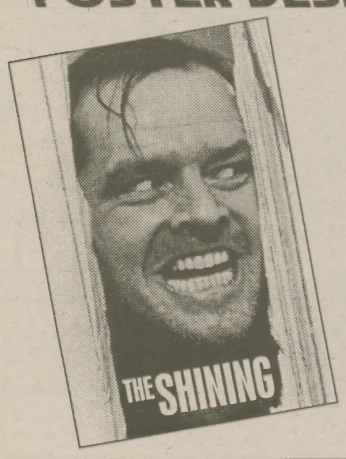

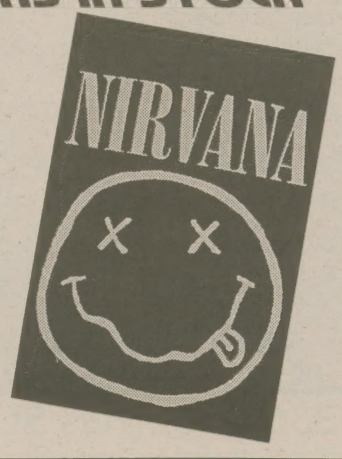

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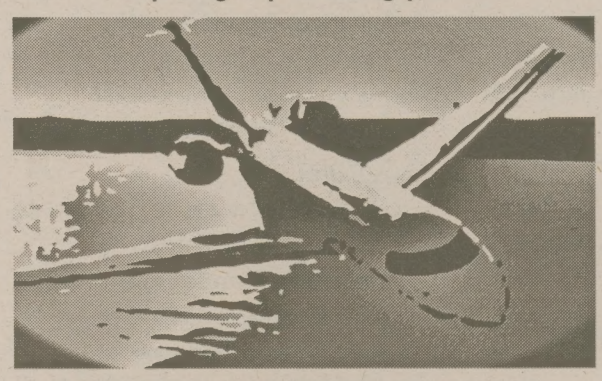

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Seeking women politicians

by Bryna Hallam

When Lillian Szpak decided to run for Langford city council in 2002, she found there were few women to look to for advice.

"Mentors are thin on the ground for women," she said. "The structures, heroes and history of politics have all been provided by men. As a women, you're in a world you didn't build, and you don't know by instinct where to go."

But the move into the political arena seemed like a natural one all the same. "I had a desire for a voice and to be closer to the seat of influence," said Szpak, "where I could make the most difference."

She believes that the experience of women in other roles–as mothers, organizers and volunteers–translates well to politics.

"Women are natural team players and negotiators," said Szpak. "In the family setting they are constantly trying to balance things out."

But success continues to be elusive for many women politicians, who find they have to worry about things their male counterparts do not. The national political scene gives us a perfect example in Belinda Stronach, one of the contenders for the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Image has turned into a large issue for Stronach, whose outfits and appearance have been reported on nearly as often as her campaign strategies. "Stronach has to make up for being an attractive young woman," said Szpak. "She has to prove that she has a brain."

The Women's Campaign School was established six years ago to help give women the tools and skills necessary to make inroads in Canada's political institutions.

Founded by the Canadian Women Voters Congress–an organization dedicated to supporting women rise to positions of power–the school covers issues such as image, strategy and the impact political life can have on families. Its goal is to achieve balanced representation in all levels of government.

"The focus of the school is to provide the students with the skills, strategies and confidence to run a winning campaign," said Lorraine Sims, chair of the school. "Our objective is to achieve 50 per cent representation, so that gender stops making a difference in the issues and the policies that are created by government."

Although women make up 52 per cent of the population, they account for only 21 per cent of the MPs in the House of Commons.

According to research by Dr. Linda Trimble and Dr. Jane Arscott, professors at the University of Alberta and Athabasca University respectively, this doesn't appear to be likely to change soon. Women seem to have reached the electoral "glass ceiling"–women representatives have been stuck at 20 to 25 per cent of the total for the past decade.

This is especially troubling since the UN defines "critical mass"–or the point at which a minority group can start to effect change–at 30 per cent representation.

In addition, Dr. Lisa Young, a professor of political science at the University of Calgary, has found women between the ages of 18 and 25 are less likely than others to be involved in politics. On top of that, only 25 per cent of people between 18 and 25 voted in the last federal election.

It was these numbers that prompted Chi Nguyen, Cloë Rowbotham and Crystal Grabe to do something.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Conservative candidate Belinda Stronach has to prove she has brains as well as beauty to compete in the "boys club" of federal politics, says local politician Lillian Szpack.

The three women are all current or former interns on Parliament Hill and are the minds behind the "20,000 for 2004" petition.

"Our experiences working in Ottawa on the Hill lead us to believe that politics is still very much a male dominated arena," said Rowbotham, "and we wanted to work to try and change that culture."

The petition is aimed at women between the ages of 18 and 25, and asks them to pledge to vote in the next election. They hope the petition will increase awareness and increase voter turnout, as well as get a "buzz" going around the importance of youth voting.

The trio also hopes that getting more women involved with politics might lead to getting more women elected to the House of Commons, saying parliament is still an "old boys club."

They point out that getting elected can be difficult for women due to financial constraints and stereotypes. "Many people still see a white, middle-aged family man as the 'safest' candidate," said Rowbotham.

In addition, she believes that many women are turned off by the political culture in Canada and cannot see themselves working within it. There are also issues of balancing child rearing and politics, as well as a lack of self-confidence.

"Many women fail to see that the skills they have acquired as mothers, volunteers, workers and community leaders are eminently transferable into the political arena," said Rowbotham.

Szpak, now in her second year as councillor, agrees. Raising a family and being involved with the activities of her sons, along with experience with the local Chamber of Commerce, gave her skills that have transferred well to her job as councillor.

"Don't be intimidated by the job," she said. "You're just a person in the community working for the community."

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Top designer prods students to make fur a faux pas

BY SARAH PETRESCU

The only exploited animals that fashion designer Todd Oldham approves of are seeing-eye dogs.

"I'm a vegetarian, I don't wear leather and I highly oppose the use of animal skins for fur," said Oldham, who has recently boarded the campaign Design Against Fur! as a spokesperson.

Design Against Fur! is an international competition challenging university students to create a poster opposing the use of fur in fashion. The winning poster can grab up to $8,000. This year's theme targets the use of fur trim.

Zipporah Weisberg, manager for the Canadian arm of the campaign and a representative for the Global Action Network, a animal rights group, said, "Many people are misled into thinking fur trim is made from the 'leftovers' of full-length fur coats. To the contrary, more animals are used each year for fur trim than fur coats, and 90 per cent of farmed foxes are killed for fur trim alone."

Oldham got behind the campaign last year when he was asked to be a judge. As an internationally acclaimed fashion and lifestyle designer, he happily lends his famous name to the cause.

"My activism has caused some lost opportunities for me, but if I didn't speak out I'd be paralyzed–it is definitely worth it," said Oldham.

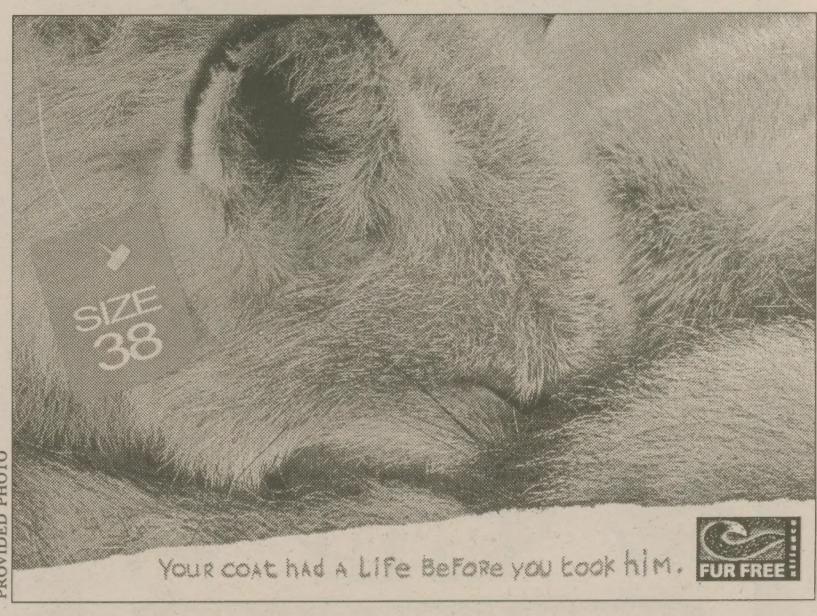
Oldham said he has a few allies in the fashion world, an industry renowned for ruthless business tactics taking precedent over social causes. Designer Stella McCartney and Victoria's Secret model Fernanda Tevares are among those who refuse to work with fur.

Olham is not shy in targeting animal rights offenders.

"American *Vogue* is helmed by woman who celebrates cruelty, and Karl Lagerfeld's use of fetal lambs for his clothing is sick," said Oldham.

"I wish people would get over their vanity and start thinking about the fact that their new jacket had parents. Yes, fur is beautiful, but it's even more beautiful on animals."

Students interested in the Design Against Fur! Poster contest can find information at www.gan.ca



PROVIDED PHOTO

Last year's grand prize-winning entry in the Design Against Fur! contest by Nicolas Poitou from the Institut Saint-Luc de Tournai in Belgium.

Suzuki speaks out against offshore drilling deal

BY JOHN THOMPSON

David Suzuki launched an attack on recent moves towards oil exploration off the coast of British Columbia during a visit to Victoria last week.

The 68-year-old geneticist, prolific writer and powerful backer of the environmental movement spoke passionately about the risks of offshore oil exploration to a diverse audience at the MacPherson Playhouse on Feb. 22.

Earlier that day, Suzuki told *the Martlet* one of his concerns is the potential conflicts of interest for members of the federal panel that recently approved offshore oil exploration, pending scientific testing. One panel member is a director of Talisman Energy. Another campaigned in favour of offshore oil exploration in Prince Rupert.

This biased panel was one of many of Suzuki's objections.

"This is a messy business, and we're going to have to live with the consequences," he said, adding a great deal of the benefits could be illusory.

Fierce winds blow across the waters of Hecate Strait between Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii, which hosts an abundance of fragile wildlife that ranges from orca and salmon to underwater sponge beds. Besides the devastating effects of an accidental oil spill, Suzuki said that leakage of oil and other chemicals into the environment is an unavoidable cost of offshore exploration, both when holes are first bored and when mud surrounding the pipes is sucked free.

"This is not brain surgery. This is crude technology, drilling holes in the earth," he said.

Other concerns Suzuki raised were less obvious to environmental critics. He spoke about how the Haida traditionally caught marbled murrelets, now an endangered species of bird, by lighting fires. Flaring from oil rigs could pose a new threat to the birds.

Attracted to the flares, the murrelets would crash to the ground or onto the decks of ships where fires were lit. "There's going to be murrelets just crashing through the gas flares," he said.

New concerns have been raised about the effects of seismic testing used to map the ocean floor on marine animals as well.

Suzuki also questioned the possible economic benefits. He said companies financing offshore exploration often bring in their own contractors for specialized tasks, leaving locals with the servicing of boats and helicopters. Rigs will likely be built in South Korea or China, where they have expertise in their construction. And because of existing free-trade agreements like NAFTA, Canada will have to pay the oil industry for giving locals priority in hiring.

Suzuki added the provincial government is currently spending taxpayer's money to promote offshore exploration, which he suggested would be better spent on research.

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Port Renfrew

Struggling with suicide in small towns

by Angela Hill

A few years after 18-year-old Leah Oke moved to Port Renfrew she was shocked when a teenager hung himself from the rafters of the local First Nations' bighouse.

Trevor Jones, 17, had been a friend of hers, and his death in September, 2003, prompted the destruction of the band's cultural centre. Now all that remains is a pile of logs and boards serving as a painful reminder to the Pacheenaht band of another youth who could not be reached.

"He's not the only one," said Oke. "There are still lots of kids thinking about (suicide) and kids who have tried it but haven't been successful yet."

Both the native and non-native communities have recognized the ongoing problem. It started in 1992 when three youths committed suicide as part of a pact, followed by one suicide every year until 1996. In a community the size of Port Renfrew–population 175 including the reserve–the deaths have left the community reeling. A key issue is isolation.

Port Renfrew, a two-hour drive from Victoria, consists of two communities: the Pacheenaht reserve and the area that was once a bustling logging town. Located at the very end of the highway on the west coast of Vancouver Island and near the beginning of the West Coast trail, Port Renfrew has an almost romantic feel to it. The romance, however, is just on the surface. When the logging industry left, a large segment of the community followed.

"You see the same people day after day," said Penny Hillard, a long-time Port Renfrew resident.

"Port Renfrew is a town looking for a concept," said Michael Dussault, a B.C. ambulance paramedic. "There seems to be the attitude among youth of a lack of future."

Oke wants to change that attitude and she believes that surfing is the way to do it. She grew up in the Sombrio beach area of what is now Juan de Fuca Provincial Park, with the surf right outside her front door. After the creation of the park, the Oke family moved to Port Renfrew.

Since the move Oke has seen the death of friends and family members. It was a late-night car accident

Angela Hill photo

The remnants of the Pacheenaht band cultural centre are a painful reminder of local social problems.

off the end of the government dock that threw her brother, Vancouver Island surfing legend Jesse Oke, into the freezing waters of Port San Juan.

Despite these tragedies, Oke continues to surf. Being a Canadian surf champ at 15 and spending a summer in Tofino teaching at Surf Sister Surf School gave her an idea.

"Surfing is a way to stay alive and be happy," said Oke, who together with her mother Barbara Oke is determined to start a project to get the kids of Port Renfrew surfing.

The ocean right outside the Pacheenaht band's reserve is the perfect place to surf when the conditions are right. "They have a break in their front yard!" said Oke.

Oke began by putting the call out to the surfers of Vancouver Island to donate used wetsuits and surfboards of all sizes. The response was quick. She received seven e-mails on the first day. Within a month there were eight wetsuits and several surfboards being stored at Coastline, a surf shop in Victoria.

"It's good for people–head, heart, soul and mind," said Oke's mom, who is very supportive of her daughter's plan.

Now, besides taking a first-aid class, all Oke needs to do is find a location to build a surf shed and racks so the boards can be stored on the beach.

Oke and her mom are not the only ones working to change the fates of Port Renfrew's youth. Bruce Comaniuk, an artist-turned-teaching assistant, does what he can to keep the youth of Port Renfrew active. He is responsible for a life-sized papier maché orca that perches above the tourist information sign.

"We worked on it every Wednesday after school for two years," said Comaniuk. The orca project was part of the first after-school program in Port Renfrew.

School in Port Renfrew only goes to grade five. After that youth must board the bus for a one hour and 45 minute ride to Sooke. This makes for a very long school day.

Comaniuk now works with the other teachers at Port Renfrew Elementary to offer an after-school program. This program includes field trips every other Friday to Sooke or Victoria.

"The kids can go swimming or skating in town," said Comaniuk, "and (the older youth) attend conferences and fairs." Most recently, Comaniuk took several of the youth to the Power of Hope Conference in Victoria.

On Fridays when the younger children are gone for field trips, the elementary school opens for the older youth. They use the kitchen for home economics and meet with a high school teacher who drives out from Sooke to help with homework.

There is some federal money supplied for these programs. The rest is gained through fundraising and band support.

The Pacheenaht Band council is doing everything they can to support their members from preschool to adulthood. Jeff Jones, the elected chief, has a better understanding of these youths than most. His brother was the first to commit suicide in 1992.

It's a tough battle. The physical and emotional health of the community suffers due a lack of education, a small number of graduates (two the last six years) and a very high unemployment rate.

Since elected, Jones has had a health team consisting of a doctor, nutritionist, health nurse and occupational therapist come to the reserve twice a month. A psychologist now comes weekly to talk to those at risk.

"They need someone to talk to and trust," said Jones.

Jones stays up in Port Renfrew because he loves his community. "I have to be here," he said. "I like living off the resources." He wants to share cultural experiences with the youth, through pit cooking and other historical activities.

To further good education the band has added a preschool to the present Port Renfrew Elementary. The Pacheenaht Preschool has seven to nine children in regular attendance.

Jones has simple wishes for the future. He wants a high school, a community hall and more youth graduating.

It's not only the long-term residents that feel responsible for these youth. Everyone in the community tries to help.

Jessica Hicks, the young owner of the West Coast Express Café, employs many girls from the community–including Oke–to work as waitresses during the summer.

"I'd rather support people who are trying to make a living here than those just passing through," said Hicks.

There is a lot of hope for these at-risk youth. With help from teachers, friends and community, they may not have to witness another suicide.

As for Oke, she plans to finish so she can be one of the next in Port Renfrew to graduate from high school.

Soon there will be new sounds and sights in Port Renfrew: the wet-suited bodies of local youth paddling to catch the next wave.

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Politicians plan to pave paradise, put up parking lot

by Jeff Andrew

A curious battle is brewing in Cathedral Grove and B.C. courts over whether or not to cut ancient old-growth trees to build a new parking lot.

For the past three weeks, local activists, tourists and citizens from nearby towns have been standing guard to prevent logging in Cathedral Grove, a small park near Port Alberni in one of the last stands of old-growth Douglas Fir left on Vancouver Island. The dispute is over a plan to move the existing parking lot to a different space.

"This is a public safety issue," said Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection Bill Barisoff, who is asking courts for an injunction to remove protesters from the park. He says the existing site, a narrow roadside pull-out on Highway 4, sees far too much traffic to be safe, especially in summer when logging trucks and Winnebagos jostle for space on the busy highway.

The government's plan, initiated by Alberni-Qualicum MLA Gillian Trumper, is to replace the site with a large paved area a kilometre and a half down a road on the east side of the park, where parking fees will be charged. Barisoff said government has considered social and environmental factors and believes their site is in the best possible place.

"We're trying to protect tourists and the environment," he said. "Based on the studies, this is the least intrusive location."

The government's plan will mean cutting approximately five acres of second-growth forest and as many as 18 of the old-growth giants that have helped make the park famous. The highway will be widened to include a left-hand turning lane, and the entire west side of the park will be shut down to prevent people from crossing the highway on foot.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) mid-Island Chairperson Annette Tanner says the government's plan will cause tremendous damage to the park's ecosystem. The proposed parking lot is on a flood plain adjacent to Cameron River, which could lead to increased flooding in the park. The area also provides a winter habitat for elk, and since the surrounding second-growth provides a valuable buffer zone protecting old-growth trees from high winds, she says the removal of forest there will likely cause more old-growth trees to fall over.

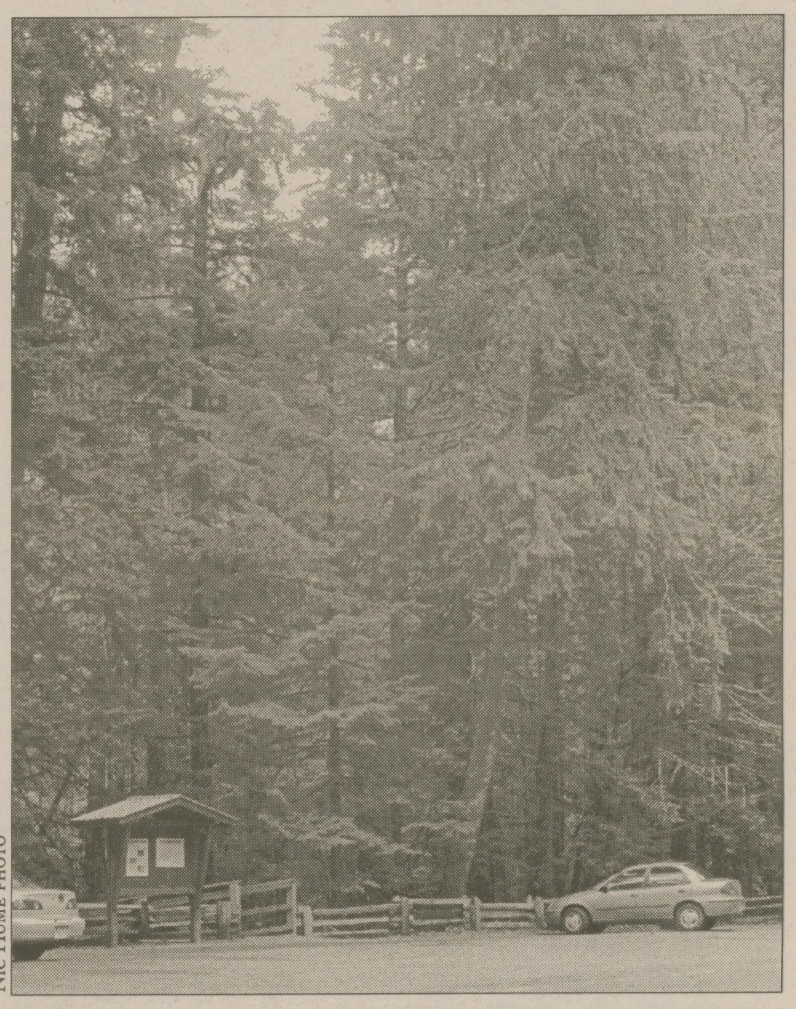
"Five acres is a big hole to create," she said.

She does agree that there is a need to relocate the parking lot, and is suggesting an alternative site on the west side of the park in an already existing clearcut. The problem with her group's site, which she believes is in a more accessible and less ecologically-sensitive area, is that west coast timber giant Weyerhaeuser Inc. owns it.

Although there has been talk for the past decade from local and provincial governments about trying to purchase more land for the park from logging companies, Barisoff confirmed that no official attempts have been made to acquire other sites for the parking lot.

So far, protests at the park have been decidedly low-key. On Feb. 9, the day cutting was to commence, people arrived at the park planning only to witness and not interfere with workers, but were told that safety regulations meant cutting could not take place with non-workers in the area. A constant vigil has been maintained since then, and work crews have not returned. Barisoff is currently struggling to get a court injunction forcing people to leave or be arrested.

His chances don't look good. Carmanah Forestry Society president Syd Haskell and lawyer Cameron Ward have successfully filed a challenge to the injunction, and both Barisoff and B.C. Attorney General Geoff Plant are scheduled to appear in a Nanaimo court on March 5 for questioning before a judge decides whether or not to grant it.



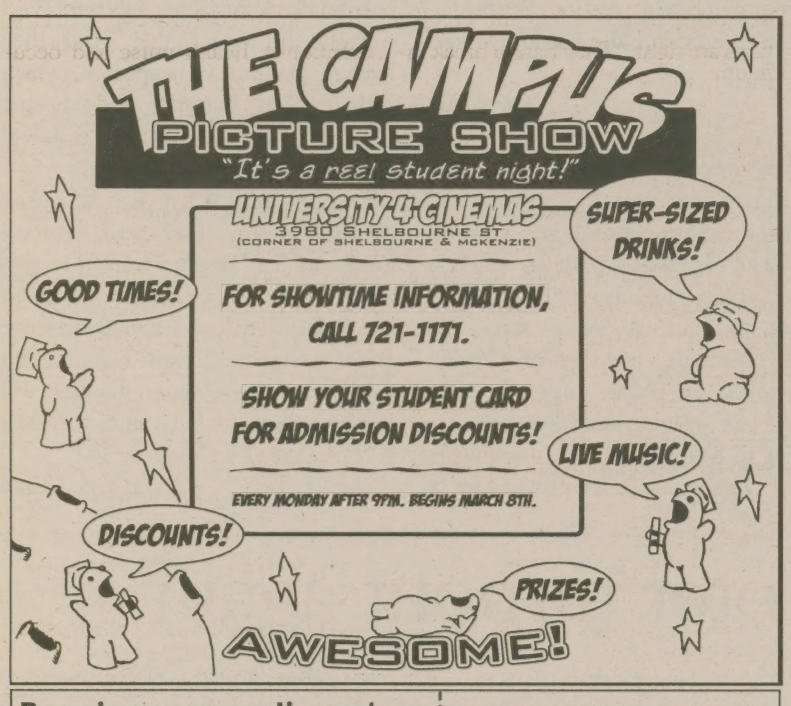
Nic Hume photo

Expansion of the Cathedral Grove parking lot has been stopped for now.

Haskell, who disagrees with WCWC on their plan, believes the existing parking lot should be expanded and says what is needed is an open public debate on where to put the parking lot before any action is taken. He also disagrees with the government's ecological assessment of the area.

"More diligence goes into building an outhouse on the back of a shed than goes into these 'studies,'" he said. "These guys haven't done their homework."

A public meeting to discuss the various plans, organized by WCWC, is currently set for March 4 in Qualicum Beach.



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EDITORIAL

Feminism is a men's issue too

It's a damn shame that International Women's Day is considered by many to be irrelevant. It's shameful because women's inequality still exists, and this should be just as much an issue for men as it is for women.

Men earn higher wages than women in the same job. Men hold more positions of political power. Men speak louder and more often in the classroom. And even pointing this out is bound to get some men's backs up. Bickering ensues, fingers are pointed, blame is tossed back and forth. Often these exchanges seem bound to create even more divisions.

So what stable ground can we stand on? Let's start by agreeing that the gains feminism has so far won make the world a far better place for everyone. "Criminals, idiots, women and minors" were the categories assigned to those ineligible to vote during the Victorian period. Treating women like they're property doesn't sound like the hallmark of a healthy society, but that was the state of things for a long time. Feminism made the radical suggestion that women might actually be people too.

Over the past century a tremendous amount of ink has been spilled while exploring women's issues. This leads us to an interesting point today when one of the largest blind spots that remains in gender studies is masculinity. Men are still conditioned not to express their feelings to men and largely lack a vocabulary to do so. In a way, men have become their own victims in the gender wars.

We're not suggesting a drumming circle in the woods. We're suggesting that gender divisions damage everyone and that women's and men's issues are tangled together. By ignoring one, both get hurt.

Feminism has fought and won the battle for women to gain a voice in society. Now that that voice is there, the dialogue needs to begin and include everyone.

Elections need more indy rock

Student elections are like rock 'n' roll. So far this year, it's been a pretty lame concert.

At their best, candidates perform in a way that's spontaneous and improvisational. They speak candidly and offer surprises. But in an election dominated by slates, we're stuck listening to slick, overproduced songs from candidates with lyrics that sound good but don't mean much. Rather than drop by an all-candidates forum, we might as well tune in to Britney Spears or the latest boy band.

So far, a saving grace for the show has been the opening acts. You know, before the two big bands hit the stage and singe the stage curtains with pyrotechnics. Can't remember their names, but we're talking about independents.

Sure, some of the slate members this election sound alright and play some good tunes. They probably started playing their instruments the same way those independent acts did, too. Thought it would be fun, maybe change the way people hear the world. Unfortunately, by virtue of joining a slate they're already one step closer towards becoming a bloated rock star.

They aren't as flashy, but we'd rather throw our weight behind those indy acts any day.

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GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Well, at least no one thinks I'm anti-Semitic"

LETTERS

Art and politics unite

You [*the Martlet* Feb. 26 issue] ask rhetorically why should I vote only to hear a faint plea to exercise a minimal obligatory democratic requirement. Nevertheless, the hope to inspire victims, ironically powerless intellects, to participate in a political landscape is meaningless.

Surely, the spirit of elections marks an exciting era for student activism in the cynical dyslexic community. The dynamic venture we shall embark on is political and artistic; the silent crusade for change is threatening, brave, and daring. No doubt the bringer of revolution is amongst the flea in the atom, apathy has always pioneered a will to overcome submission. Indifference, crippling coolness, placidity sketches the virtual weapon of chaos, which inscribes a new avenue of politics–the political art of mime. The expression of mime, founded aloofly by the silent majority, illustrates the fragility of political systems based on "voicing" concerns. Shh–

Now ask yourself where you exist in this justly wrong society of the destructive good. Of course politics is artificial if memory wisps away and we forget the struggles that fostered the institutions. And so our latest challenge is to expand the political setting beyond administration or mime fields, and into artistic dialogue to articulate the purpose to our education.

Russell Ross

UVSS needs change

I am a first-year Economics and Political Science student, and I see an awful lot of problems with the way that the UVSS is currently run. For instance, I see my Students' Society spend my fees on crude drawings of Gordon Campbell on phallic rockets. Now what I fail to understand is how this is going to help students in a meaningful way. This is one of many examples of the problems in the UVSS and the SUB.

For years, Putting Students First (being a first-year student I don't know the full tale) has really done nothing to help students who are dealing with rising tuition rates, other than bitching and whining. Marching down to the legislature, yelling and drawing phallic rockets are not helping students. That is why I support Students for Change in the UVSS elections this week. In their words, they have a "progressive" approach, which includes new bursaries and cheaper food, as opposed to the "reactive" approach currently taken.

From my perspective as a struggling student in my first year, Putting Students First has utterly failed to give students what they look for: real financial help. Therefore I say to students: let's try something new and exciting and vote for a UVSS administration that will do something to help students. Let's vote Students for Change.

Matthew Lebrun

Expect low voter turnout again

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Quick: What's going on this week on campus? I'll give you a hint: it's more than just the usual lectures, labs and exams. Not sure? It's time for the annual student elections for the University of Victoria's Students Society (UVSS).

Here's another: What does the UVSS do? Wait, really think about it. If you're like the majority of students, you probably said something like, "Run the SUB," or "Protest things," or, most likely, "I have no idea." Trust me, you're not alone.

And the reason you don't know is that you just don't care. And the reason you don't care? Because they don't matter to you.

What impact does the UVSS have on the lives of most students? What relevance do they have? And most important, what power do they hold to affect the change they claim to be working for?

None. Zip. Nada.

But you wouldn't think so by looking around campus these days. Walls are covered with banners and posters. Pamphlets are everywhere. Would-be student politicians pour hours into campaigns that draw less than 10 per cent of the student body to the polls. Yes, only 10 per cent of students care who represents them. The rest apparently don't care.

And why should they? Student elections are hardly life and death. After all, the UVSS manages the Student Union Building (SUB). They run things like clubs and course unions. They run the food bank and house a number of important campus groups, and for all that we can all be thankful. These things are good. But the UVSS is not the heart of the university.

Advocacy is an important part of what the UVSS does, but it is not all they do. It is not their entire mandate, and I would argue it's not even the most important thing they do.

We have come to accept certain events as inevitable: The government will continue to cut funding to post-secondary institutions. UVic will need to raise tuition. The UVSS will protest and tuition will go up all the same. The UVSS has shown they are powerless in the face of government. How many demonstrations and petitions can students participate in before they lose faith in them? How many years will we have to listen to the same promises?

Maybe that is the nature of politics and the nature of those who get involved. Those who do are vocal and active. They work for what they believe in, and they should be acknowledged and admired for that. But that does not mean that they necessarily represent an entire group.

The job of any elected person is to serve the needs of the community that elected them. If voter turnout is low, it may be because voters don't see anyone on the slate that represents them.

It has become easy to brush off the UVSS and their promises, and difficult to take student politics seriously. They have distanced themselves from many students, and as a result, few students care about them.

It is too easy to blame apathy for the poor voter turnout. I believe that student politicians are failing to make themselves relevant to the majority of students. They have isolated themselves from the community they are supposed to represent.

It is time student politics become more relevant to students. Until then, we can expect voter turnout to remain low.

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Women's reproductive choice a right

'I feel a responsibility to respond to the growing pro-life movement'

Sarah Petrescu

Every year International Woman's Day rolls around I find myself taking a mental poll on feminist activism in my life. Like most feminists I know, I'm a better critic than activist.

Feminists in the past had to fight for women's rights in legislation, social values and a right to be heard. I feel privileged and proud to have benefited from their efforts and recognize how far women have come in the fight for gender equality.

But there is one current trend that has scared sluggish feminists like myself. We may be losing a major battle–women's right to reproductive choice.

According to recent polls pro-life movements are gaining ground, especially ones propelled by evangelical Christian groups. As Canadians and Americans are bombarded with a culture of terrorist and economic fear, we seem to be moving towards a more right-wing political environment.

For the first time in years, our prime minister has publicly appointed pro-life ministers to cabinet. In the United States, George Bush's electoral platform included explicit adherence to a pro-life stance.

What really scares me is the story of Jane Roe, real name Norma McCorvey, of the seminal Roe vs. Wade decision in 1970 that enabled on-demand abortion in the U.S. In 1998 McCorvey denounced her pro-abortion activism after becoming a born-again Christian and has recently attempted to overthrow the law she helped pass, saying she lied in her original testimony and abortion did her harm mentally and spiritually.

McCorvey is not an isolated case of someone jumping sides. Her views are indicative of a huge number of recently converted pro-lifers who see abortion as anti-Christian, anti-family and anti-woman. I wrote a news article earlier this year about a pro-life university campaign, feminists for life, who are canvassing along the same premise.

At UVic, our students' society includes in their mandate a pro-choice stance and donates annually to the Pro-Choice Action Network. However, until this year the UVic Pro-CAN club was inactive for two years and almost lost their club status. I don't think this is a sign of students' disinterest in being pro-choice. Rather, we're taking for granted that our society will always be that way.

While the students' society has been challenged on presenting a moral dilemma for due-paying pro-life students, their pro-choice stance is a political decision to support a right-by-law for women in Canada, and I stand by it proudly. But, like most struggles for human rights, the cause of reproductive rights for women cannot be ignored as a done deal. The recent comeback of the pro-lifers is a sign of that.

As a feminist and a Christian, I feel a responsibility to respond to the growing pro-life movement with a plea to those who believe that a woman's right to reproductive choice and authority over her own body is inherent in a moral just society. This is a time for us to speak up and engage in addressing issues such as reproductive health, family values and spirituality.

This International Women's Day let's not just celebrate the achievements of feminists, let's remind ourselves, and others, why they are achievements in the first place.

Bush's attack on same-sex marriage rights

'Marriage can only be declared by the happy couple themselves'

by Andrew Cienski

Last Tuesday President Bush threw his weight behind a proposed amendment to the American Constitution that would limit marriage to heterosexual unions.

He was reacting to recent Supreme Court judgments in Massachusetts and California that said restricting same-sex marriages is against the constitution.

It could be that Bush's motivation stemmed from religiously-based moral concerns. However, he may also be thinking of re-election.

In backing the Defense of Marriage Act, he said he wanted to "preserve the meaning of marriage from being changed forever." He pointed out that marriage was the most enduring human institution, and that the issue needed clarity.

Wouldn't having to defend marriage presuppose an actual attack on marriage? Where is this attack coming from? The Massachusetts and California courts didn't attack their society's definition of marriage, they simply judged to uphold "the constitutional protection of equality and fair treatment." In working to change the constitution then, President Bush is taking a pre-emptive approach to defense . . . again.

To help clarify the meaning of marriage, it might help if the president knew that marriage is a noun–which indicates a state of being brought on by a declaration of marriage. In the same way "war" is a state of being brought on by a declaration of war.

Obviously only the heads of states, as spokespeople for their countries, have the authority to declare war. Similarly, marriage can only be declared by the happy couple themselves. Even the Roman Catholic Church acknowledged its role as mediator between a bride and groom when Vatican II stressed "the mutual exchange of love as constituting the sacrament of marriage."

There is no room for a third party in this sacrament, either to call it into being, or to challenge the couple's definition of their relationship.

So, since there is no ambiguity in how marriage gets its meaning, the issue must rest in trying to establish a universal definition. Only in an ideal world will a generally held definition encompass every interpretation of a word. The same-sex marriage debate is not attempting to change the meaning of the word. In fact, it's doing the opposite: It reminds us of the meaning so that it might be incorporated into the definition.

Thirty years ago there was still debate around whether homosexuality was a curable disorder. The prospect of same-sex marriage was science fiction then. Now there are openly gay politicians, church leaders, and, in several countries (and some U.S. states), legally performed and recognized same-sex marriages.

President Bush is a master at whipping a crowd into a frenzy to meet his own agenda. He maintained the fear generated by 9/11 with orange alerts and rumours of spies and weapons of mass destruction long enough to attain his long-time goal of invading Iraq.

Now he's throwing fuel on the debate over same-sex marriage. Re-election is the most important issue for Bush on the home front. If he can distract the electorate with defining marriage, they might just forget about the lack of weapons in Iraq, the cost of that war in lives and dollars, the failure of his road map in Israel, and his neglect of myriad domestic economic and social concerns.

Bush isn't looking for clarity or the salvation of his country's soul. He's looking to stir a pot that might win him another four years in the White House.

Doing nothing to stop abuse condones it

'What does it take to interfere? The sound of shattering glass? Two people screaming?'

by Zoë Bake-Paterson

It begins with a dull thud. The pictures on the wall shudder, or maybe some glasses clink. Then there's someone yelling, "Fuck, god damn fuckin'." It's not quite a sentence, and through the wall it sounds more like someone yelling about a duck, but you know better. It gets louder, just in case you hadn't heard. "You God damn fuck!"

Momentary silence, followed by a thunderous crash that feels like it's right behind you.

You're sitting on the couch. Your textbook is open on your lap, six more pages to get through. Or whatever. Maybe you're cooking dinner, maybe you're watching a movie with your lover, maybe you're talking with your roommate. Regardless, you are in your apartment doing what you do, going about your life.

Then comes the thud, followed by the crash, and then relentless yelling.

The reaction? Turn on the music and turn up the volume. I know, I've done it. It's not that we don't care, it's just that we don't want to be disturbed. Or worse, we don't want to be distressed.

The sound can be anything–at best a neighbour kicking the guts out of his computer, at worst an assault (both cases have been true for my neighbours). Most of the time, we do nothing. In a society where we are taught to mind our own business, individual privacy is something we hold dear, but what should we do?

Knock on the door–and face the possible wrath single-handedly.

Call the police–who classify it as a "domestic" and appear 20 minutes later.

Ignore it–and be horrified the day the ambulance shows up outside.

This is the phenomenon of disinvolvement.

Like an ostrich that hides by sticking his head in the sand, it's almost like we believe that if we don't hear it, it's not there.

What does it take to interfere? The sound of shattering glass? Two people screaming? The wall shaking? Each time I hear hollow shouting through the plasterboard and fluffed pink insulation, the battle begins: act or disengage. I think of it as an insular event. My apartment, my building, my street.

It came up in conversation last week with a different neighbour from down the street. To my surprise he came back with his own story of neighbours fighting–screaming matches.

When I got to my limit of abusive sounds, my roommate and I called the cops. They came, and it was simply a guy trashing his apartment by himself. He was okay. We were the neurotic neighbours. I admit that I felt silly, calling the cops to protect furniture, but the consequences of not acting would be to carry the guilt of potentially permitting someone to be harmed.

The act of interfering is underrated. It's outright frowned upon. How else can a Vancouver woman be raped and murdered in the hallway of her apartment, while other tenants were home, and have no one come to help? Dramatic example certainly, but it did happen. Statistically, the more people who are aware of a problem the less each of them feels responsible to do anything.

Don't be a statistic. Interfere.

PROVIDED PHOTOS

Right: Striking garment workers line the streets of lower Manhattan in 1909.

Upper far right: Women's unions march in memory of the victims of the Triangle shirtwaist fire.

Lower far right: The Triangle Waist Factory building. 141 young women and men burned to death on the top three floors or died leaping to the ground.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMES AROUND AGAIN

Leaping from the flames

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

THE PLOT

The fire was easy to spot.

Smoke piled above the 10-story building minutes after it began, and flames spewed from the top three floors of the Triangle Waist Company. The supposedly fireproof building burned easily, spreading flames across three floors in less than 15 minutes as it ravaged shirtwaists–tailored button-up blouses for women–hanging from the ceiling and fabric scraps along the floor.

One hundred forty-one young women and men died.

As the building burned, eyewitnesses counted the falling bodies of factory workers as they jumped to escape the flames. Of the 600 people in the factory, 500 of them were immigrant women between the ages of 16 and 23. Many were trapped on the upper floors without a chance to escape through the solitary internal fire escape. Of the two elevators, only one worked that day. The choice was grim: leap or burn.

Eyewitness accounts describe the tragic leaps from burning windows to the concrete below. The hollow thud of bodies breaking on impact, first one, then another. More than 50 bodies fell to the street while firefighters attempted to set up ladders that only reached as high as the sixth floor.

It was March 25, 1911. The worst fire New York City had ever seen.

There had been years of strikes leading up to the Triangle shirtwaist fire. Broken elevators, inadequate fire escapes, fabric hanging from ceilings and aisles blocked by sewing machines were all common.

The fire itself happened three years and two weeks after a massive general strike organized by garment workers across New York city. Over 20,000 women struck for 13 weeks to fight for better pay and safer working conditions.

It also came mere weeks after the second International Women's Day (IWD), a rally to protest the inequal rights of women.

THE TANGENT

"Hey, Zoë, you'd know this. When is Women's Day?"

It was my co-worker, in the midst of a debate about special "Days" and whether or not they were worth having.

"International Women's Day? March 8," I said.

Yes, of course I would know. Being the resident feminist on staff at a coffee shop–and they call me a feminist not because of my beliefs, but because I minored in women's studies and I heatedly disagree with BC Liberal politics–I often field random questions about serious "women things." When did women get the vote? What does sexual assault actually mean? Can men be feminists? There is an assumption that I should know these things.

While none of the folks involved in the conversation questioned the worth of IWD–after all, "women are important, ya know"–one of them said it was a shame that everyone forgot about it.

To say it is forgotten is too easy. International Women's Day has simply been written off as a feminist holiday. Bogged down in associations and political labels, IWD no longer seems relevant.

It didn't used to be that way. The day began as a protest calling for better labour laws. It was the first decade of the 1900s, before women had the right to vote, even before the term "feminism."

I wish I could say that today March 8 is an exuberant celebration. But I keep getting stuck on the fact that when asked: "What did you do last year for IWD?" I have little to tell.

I remember the day. It's a little purple square on my calendar. And there are a few significant IWD moments from the last 20 years of my life: the tradition of wearing red and purple together–an association with the poem "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple"; the cookies in the shape of the woman's sign that my mother would buy; the year I woke at dawn to walk a labyrinth with nine other women in silence. Small memories, personal memories.

There are more public events, like the notoriously ineffective march from City Hall to the Provincial Legislature that happens almost every week in Victoria for one cause or another. Or the World March of Women on March 8, 2000, a day of speeches, a hundred-odd protesters, bitter cups of coffee and a march of solidarity. Every couple years something seems to happen, it's just that the events are segregated into feminist actions and rarely even make the evening news.

There are plenty of reasons to celebrate IWD, and although I could go on for a long time about inequalities, sexism and social constructions, these are the reasons I am a self-described feminist. For some, that is a big reason to remember. This day is a time to publicly recognize the rights of women–the rights won and the rights still to be fought for. There are also smaller reasons to remember, everyday celebrations and inequalities.

For me, it's because I'm tired of looking at travel books and seeing an isolated section for women travellers, a reminder that independent travelling women are still considered a rare and "unsafe" thing. At least there is recognition that women travel, but we are like a whole separate species of voyager.

It's also because I'm tired of flipping through my anthology of modern poetry and seeing that male poets outnumber the female poets by more than 80 per cent. (I am often told I am lucky because my collection of modern poetry has women poets at all. As if women writing in the 20th century is a rare thing!)

Mostly, it's because it's a day to celebrate the women in my life and in the world who are living with the benefits won from the earliest rallies of International Women's Day, benefits like the right to vote, own property, have an eight-hour work day. I don't want to forget the history of this day:

Left: A 1907 lithograph sold as a postcard to solicit funds for children of strikers during the 1910 Chicago garment strike.

Right: International Women's Day on March 8 was first celebrated by the United Nations in 1976, and is recognized by countries around the world.

what it meant to those who began it, what it has won us.

THE POINT

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women making history.

I was first told that the day commemorates the tragedy of the Triangle shirtwaist fire, an important memory not only because of those who died, but also because it showed the lack of rights women had.

International Women's Day commemorates the fire, just as December 6, the day of prevention of violence against women, commemorates the women killed in the Montreal massacre in 1989.

But it isn't about remembering the dead as much as the moment where change began to happen. The moment where the fight became legitimized. The fire was a significant tragedy for female workers because it was an example of how little value their lives had, and how much things had to change.

That is the story I knew. But the history of IWD begins much earlier.

At the turn of the 20th century, women in the United States entered the textile and manufacturing industries in significant numbers. They faced horrible working conditions, were paid far below minimum wage and had no means to improve their circumstances.

During this same time, workers unions began to develop–such as the Women's Trade Union League in 1903 and the Industrial Workers of the World in 1905. Uprisings and revolutions fed a growing movement calling for improved conditions and enforcement of labour laws. In March 8, 1908, socialist women initiated the first Women's Day demonstration, held on the same day as an earlier New York strike in 1857. Their demands were for the right to vote, along with economic and political rights for women in the United States.

In the winter of 1909, New York garment workers staged a strike. For 13 weeks, more than 20,000 women picketed the streets outside the factories, calling for better working conditions. The women were on the move.

In 1910, Women's Day went national, taken up by socialists, feminists and suffragettes across the United States. That same year the event was brought to the second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, a meeting of women from 17 countries. It was there that an International Women's Day was first proposed.

Clara Zetkin–a leader from the German Socialist Party–suggested March 8, in honour of the garment workers strike in New York City. The idea met unanimous approval. Within three years of its creation, Women's Day became an international event.

On March 25, 1911–a few weeks after IWD rallies had drawn more than one million people in Europe alone–the issue of women's rights gained new significance. The Triangle shirtwaist factory fire killed 141 people, mostly young women under 25, many of whom were new immigrants to North America. The tragedy captured the depth of the labour problems and furthered growing discontent in the United States. For women, specifically garment and textile workers, it was a brutal proof of what they were rallying against.

After the fire, the Women's Trade Union League helped push for an investigation that eventually led to new industrial safety regulations and changes in labour legislation. Triangle Waist factory owners Isaac Harris and Max Blanck, who both managed to escape from the fire, were charged with manslaughter due to their negligence–reports indicated that the escape route on the ninth floor was blocked by a locked door.

Despite the efforts of the Union, Harris and Blanck were acquitted. They eventually paid a minimal payment of $75 per life lost to victims' families. Most of the women in the factory were the primary income earners for their families.

The fire led to changes in the United States labour laws, but the growing women's revolution was just beginning. The fight continued, and by 1917, most women in Canada had the right to vote. By 1920, most women in the United States did too. This is where labour and women's rights begin to split, although never entirely, and IWD takes on its own history: a day for women's rights.

THE QUESTION

I mull over this huge topic on a slow day at the coffee shop. Men and women trickle in from their government jobs in the building above the store, precise in their timing for breaks and lunch. The benefits of a union job.

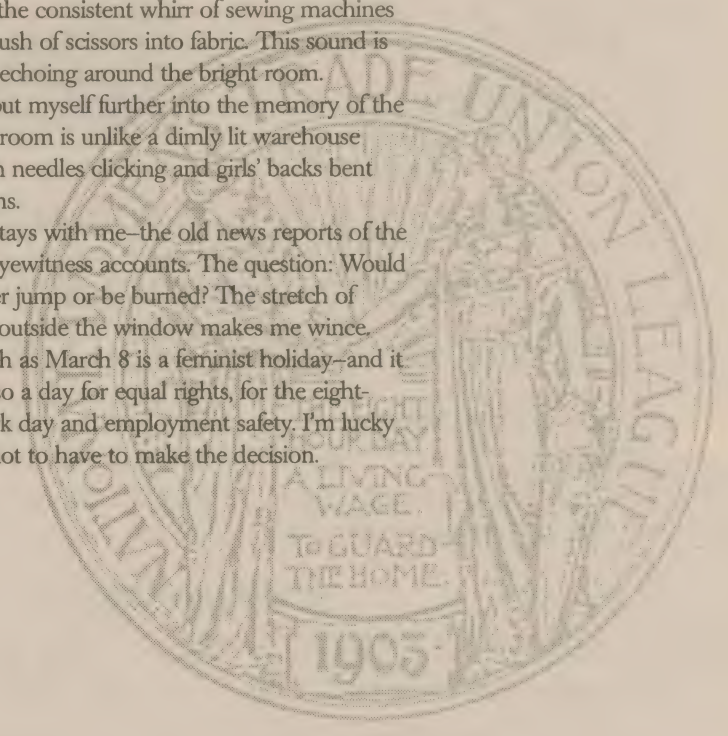
I'm having a clumsy day, spilling scalding coffee over my fingers while I serve cup after paper cup. Always the temptation to drop the cup and swear loudly, but less so today. It's hard to equate a blistering fingertip to a room ablaze.

When clumsy, it is best to remain as still as possible. Or at least that's my excuse to remain stationary until the next rush of customers. I lean against the back counter and listen to the machines around me hiss and tick: steam wand, dishwasher, coins into the till. There is no rhythm to it, not the consistent whirr of sewing machines nor the hush of scissors into fabric. This sound is irregular, echoing around the bright room.

I can't put myself further into the memory of the fire. This room is unlike a dimly lit warehouse lined with needles clicking and girls' backs bent over seams.

Still, it stays with me–the old news reports of the fire, the eyewitness accounts. The question: Would you rather jump or be burned? The stretch of sidewalk outside the window makes me wince.

As much as March 8 is a feminist holiday–and it is–it is also a day for equal rights, for the eight-hour work day and employment safety. I'm lucky enough not to have to make the decision.



Faster than a speeding song

Wax Mannequin music and superpowers amaze

BY VANESSA NEUMAN

For many, a Wax Mannequin show is a transformative experience. First there is disbelief. Then comes confusion. At the end there is captivation, awe and, finally, understanding.

Armed only with a guitar and a drum machine, some slightly offbeat lyrics and a colourful stage presence, Wax Mannequin can appear strange to those accustomed to more conventional gigs. For one thing, his songs are about power blasters and "being a master like the heroes on TV." And sometimes, verses are sung entirely in "meows."

"I like the fact that people think [my music] is different, but I'm also a bit intimidated by it," says Chris Adeney, aka Wax Mannequin. "I write the music that I write, and I know that it's playful, and I know that I've got a different approach, but I think I strive to challenge people [to] embrace it."

Fortunately, most people who have seen Adeney play seem to be getting the joke.

"There's still the humour there and there can still be the shtick, or it can just be a stripped down show with me and a guitar, but I do get the sense that they understand me," he says. "It's a backward way to come through it, but I want this music to engage people."

He admits that being thought of as weird can be a barrier when trying to connect with an audience, but it's a challenge he enjoys. "When it happens I find it rewarding and fun, and I hope that the people experiencing it do too."

Adeney has also enstated perhaps one of the most inventive and strange self-promotion schemes around. People who attend his shows, or introduce people to his music, or make stuff at the shows or do "fantastic things" earn Jimmy Points. Once a certain number of points have been reached–I think the number is six–you earn a super power and a button that proves you have said power to accompany it.

"I have mixed feelings about [the Jimmy system]," confesses Adeney. "Some people are really into it, some people aren't into it and some people are too into it . . . Sometimes I think it's a distraction to the music and sometimes it's a compliment. It is a manifestation of the kind of humour that I like to bring to what I'm doing."

PROVIDED PHOTO

One-man band Wax Mannequin works often in the medium of meows in an effort to reach his audience.

So how many people across Canada have super powers? "I've gone through quite a number. A few hundred I'm sure," Adeney jokes. "They're predicting the end of the world again, so it's time for us to band together."

The frivolous nature of some of his songs and his stage antics shouldn't fool people into thinking that Wax Mannequin is not a serious musician. He's toured the country extensively over the past few years and built up quite a following while doing so. *The Globe and Mail*'s Carl Wilson even listed Wax Mannequin's recently released disc *The Price* on his "Hotly Awaited in 2004" list of CDs. Rightly so.

Adeney is an excellent musician and his music showcases a diverse variety of styles and influences. "Empty Glass" starts sounding like jazz, with only bass drums and voice in many parts, while parts of "Jimmy Bleeds" could be a Celtic song played by an '80s rock band.

The Price itself has shied away from the norm for Adeney– for the first time while releasing a CD as Wax Mannequin, he is backed by a band.

"The emphasis has always been on the one-man band and I think it will continue to be, but I think some of [*The Price*'s] music is best represented with a band. The new record is mostly a rock record," says Adeney. "There's a kind of energy that I like to build up in a room full of bouncy people."

Wax Mannequin plays at Logan's Pub on March 7 and at Second Story Books on March 10.

We have two pairs of tickets for

Lennie Gallant

(Mar. 5th) and

James Keelaghan

(Mar. 6th).

Come see an arts editor (or leave your info) and tell them why you love folk music to win a pair o' tix to see either show.

SUB b011

Return to ambience with Enigma's latest

BY GRAHAM STARK

Enigma
Voyageur
EMI

Since their first album *MCMXC A.D.*–"1990" in Roman numerals, the year the album was released–Enigma has had a sound and style different from everyone else.

Formed in Spain, with lyrics in French and English, and produced in Germany, Enigma is known for their "world fusion" of musical styles. Three years after their last release, Enigma is back with their fifth album *Voyageur.*

Referring to Enigma as a group is a bit of a misnomer, as 'their' songs are written, performed and produced almost entirely by Michael Crétu. As well as effectively *being* Enigma, Crétu has released several albums under his own name.

He has also collaborated with many other artists, including ATB, Curly M.C. and instrumentalist Jens Gad, with whom Crétu produced the side project *Trance Atlantic Airwaves.*

Gad also co-wrote a few of *Voyageur*'s tracks and Crétu's wife, Sandra, provides all female vocals, as she does on other Enigma albums.

All Enigma albums tend to stand apart from their previous releases, yet each still possesses Crétu's distinctive touch. *Voyageur* is no different.

While the band has had some pumping pop/dance tracks in their time, this album contains more of the ethereal ambience they are known for. From the album's title track, "Voyageur," through beautiful instrumental tracks like "Page of Cups," to the soothing melodies in "Total Eclipse of the Moon," this is an awesome album.

If you're a fan of Enigma and don't already own it, get it now. And if you've only heard a couple of their songs or are totally oblivious, consider giving Enigma's ambient awesomeness a try.

Welcome Back UVic Students!

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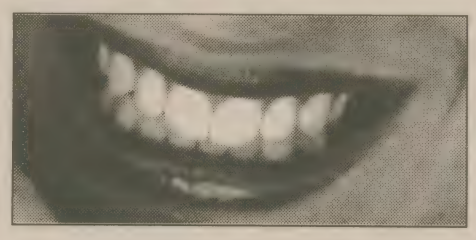

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Noel Coward's *Private Lives* still a crowd pleaser

by Tyler Bate

Tony Owen photo

Victor (Michael Viala) and Elyot (Robert Adam) square off over love in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*.

The packed house at Langham Court Theatre on Friday night was just as satisfied and engaged by *Private Lives* as original audiences were back in the 1930s, proving beyond a doubt that a Noel Coward play is still a juicy ticket.

As a director, playwright, actor, composer and singer, the multi-talented Noel Coward (1899-1973) entertained playgoers for over half a century with his gentle satirical wit, best known for his comedies of manners written from the 1920s through to the 1940s. Audiences of the day were amused and occasionally shocked by Coward's exhibition of English upper-class idiosyncrasies.

Private Lives is arguably Coward's crowning achievement in this genre. It is certainly one of his most performed plays. Although Coward wrote the play in only four days, it was an instant hit when it opened in 1930.

On the surface, *Private Lives* tells the comic tale of a couple falling in and out of love. Elyot and Amanda were once married, but after five years of divorce they coincidentally remarry at the same time. The play opens with the couples on their respective honeymoons.

Circumstances cause Elyot and Amanda to realize that they are still in love, and thus the plot unfolds.

Underneath the surface, however, Noel Coward flippantly toys with conventional definitions of love and marriage. As characters alternate between romantic affection and venomous dispute, Coward begins to suggest that the two go hand in hand.

Robert Adam (playing Elyot) and Fran Patterson (playing Amanda) do an excellent job of fluctuating from one extreme emotion to the other. It is a pleasure to be taken on the roller coaster ride that these two actors create on stage.

Elyot's younger bride Sybil and Amanda's younger groom Victor are played quite well by Shelley Dusterbeck and Michael Viala respectively. Their confused, innocent demeanors contrast comically with the older and wiser characters.

Particularly impressive was how the actors captured the satiric quality and comedy of Coward's fast-paced dialogue, without losing the audience's attention. In this regard, Celia Francis should be commended on her portrayal of the French maid. It did not matter that she was speaking a foreign language: her expressions said it all.

Private Lives is a visual feast. Costume and set design blend beautifully well together, recreating the Art Deco world of the 1930s. The wardrobe choices suit the characters perfectly and the set was magnificently realistic. In fact, the set change from act one to act two was such a pleasure to watch that it garnered applause. Director Sylvia Rhodes has created a very enjoyable version of *Private Lives* and in no way has this play lost any of its old sparkle. Anyone in need of a good laugh, or even a new perspective on relationships, should check out *Private Lives*.

Private Lives *runs at Langham Court Theatre until March 13. Student tickets are $13.*

From grassroots to glitzy guests

by Sarah Petrescu

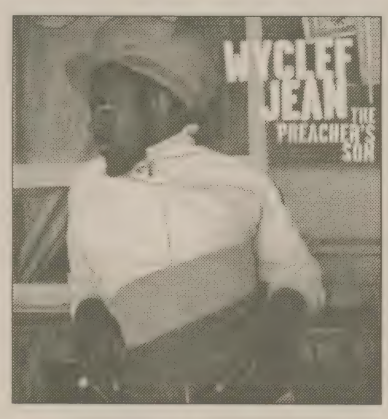
Wyclef Jean
The Preacher's Son
J Records/BMG

Wyclef Jean's latest album, *The Preacher's Son*, is to hip-hop what Zsa Zsa Gabor is to beauty: a lot of glitz tacked on to past glory.

In the '90s, Jean was smokin'. One third of the Fugees–perhaps the most inventive groundbreaking hip-hop trio to date–Jean smoothly solidified himself as a fresh creative force. He avoided the chasm of mainstream gaud (we hardly remember that Destiny's Child cameo in 1997, right?) and made politics and reggae the best match since Bob Marley.

On the coattails of the Fugees' success, Jean released his debut solo album *The Carnival* in 1997. The album was a hit for critics and fans alike. Jean was praised for his eclectic fusion of rap, reggae, odd dialogues, and narrative lyrical style. He set himself apart from the slough of rappers concerned only with themselves in the third person, bitches, guns and bling.

After *The Carnival*, Jean hit a downward spiral. For no good reason, he traded in his unique and diverse style for a trajectory towards the omnipresent overproduced genre of hip-hop glutting the charts. His next releases *The Eclectic*, *The Masquerade*, and a clueless greatest hits album were flops. In fact, Jean seemed to be bringing home more bacon behind the scenes as a producer and collaborator.



Alas, we come to *The Preacher's Son*, an albeit somewhat redemptive work for Jean. The tracks on *The Preacher's Son* are diverse and danceable. "Celebrate," featuring soul goddess Patti LaBelle, and "Take Me As I Am," featuring Sharissa, are bona fide rump-shakers. The lyrics are a mixed bag of witty and heartfelt stories, like "Baby Daddy" and "Linda," and mishits like "Industry," which is filled with relentless references to Biggie Smalls and the "hard-knock life" of being a rap supastar.

What detracts from Jean's clear talent and creativity on the album is his array of A-list guests. Any album produced by Clive Davis, featuring the likes of Patti LaBelle, Redman, Missy Elliot and Carlos Santana sets a high standard–and in Jean's case a confusing one. Jean's appeal is grassroots. He doesn't fit into the mainstream game. He's a chubby girl in hot pants. Jean looks, and sounds, better where he's more comfortable–weird, creative and without the glitz.

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In the words of Tangerine Dream, Max Graham is loved by the sun.

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Let the music shine

BY CRAIG EVERETT

Max Graham
Shine
System Recordings

Canadian dance music icon Max Graham is a busy man.

Since releasing his Juno-nominated album *Airtight* and mixing Kinetic Records' fourth installment of the Transport series in 2002, this Montreal resident has spent more time on airplanes than at home. Constant international touring has Graham crossing continents on a weekly basis. It comes as a welcome surprise that he has found the time to release his highly anticipated compilation *Shine*.

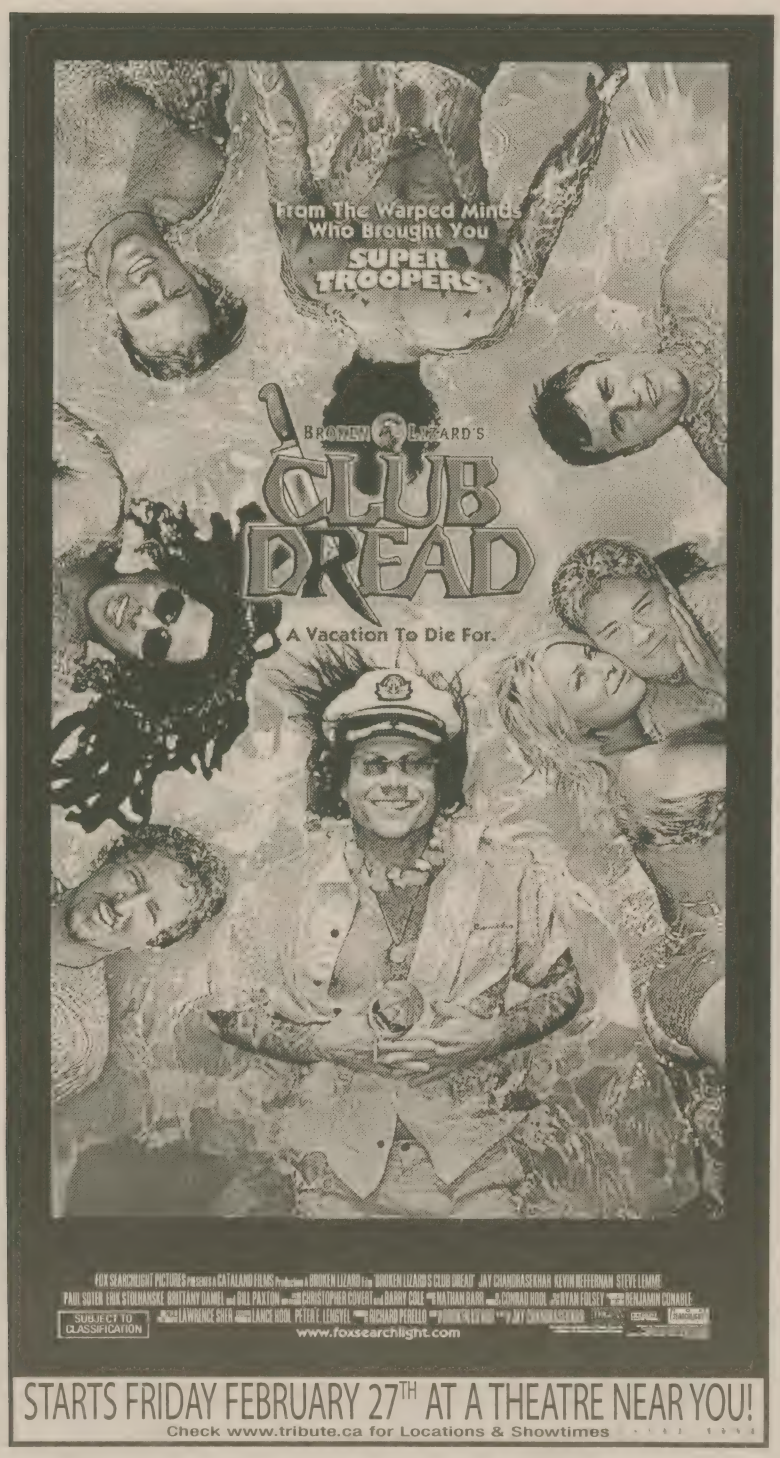
Shine hits the sweet spot between house, trance and techno and is certainly a breath of fresh air in terms of musical quality, construction and satisfaction. Standout tracks by Sander Kleinenberg and Junkie XL give this CD its credentials, but Graham's true sound is evident in Piece Process's "New Driver" and Madoka's "Afterburner."

Graham's greatest accomplishment on this CD is his mature and qualified track selection, which showcases his flawless turntable skills. Graham's years on the decks provide us with perfect transitions between songs, but his mixing has developed to a point where neither the mixes between tracks nor the tracks themselves stand out from each other. They feed off one another, delivering the perfect progressive experience. While this compilation has significant power, there is no one track that dominates the others, and this is a very good thing. Achieving this seamlessness is a defining standard in professional DJing, and every minute of *Shine* deserves attention.

Musically, *Shine* is similar to a fine malt scotch. It has a strong, intense beginning that demands your attention. It is powerful and sturdy and drawing towards the middle, it smoothes out and tempts your palate with a warm finish, its lingering body inviting you for another taste. Unlike scotch, however, this CD is not an acquired taste, as it grabs you from the moment you turn it on. *Shine* is a musical journey loaded with bright sounds and a persistent energy that emulates the momentum of Graham's Shine club nights. The rhythmic paced beats insist that you somehow dance, even if it's in your chair, even if it embarrasses you.

Shine is more than just a mix CD and Graham is more than just a DJ. He is a visionary, and *Shine* is his vision. The "Shine" concept includes a monthly club event held in multiple cities, a record label, a website, and even a line of clothing.

This all-encompassing approach to music is similar in nature to John Digweed's *Bedrock*, and Deep Dish's *Yoshitoshi*. In an industry crowded with mediocrity, multi-faceted involvement forms the defining line separating the exceptional from the good. Max Graham's success is something of an anomaly in the dance community. While internationally revered record labels and clubs continue to fold, his *Shine* is rapidly heading in the other direction.



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Compact quickies

BY VANESSA NEUMAN

The Premiums
Recognizer
Rock and Roll Records

The debut album from The Premiums could have been really good. They're obviously good musicians–their lyrics are fun, their riffs are catchy and the general sound of the album is clean and snappy. Unfortunately, they wear their '80s pop-rock influences on their sleeves, and time that could otherwise be spent enjoying The Premiums' music is instead taken up by playing try-to-figure-out-which-band-this-sounds-like-most.

That said, *Recognizer* does have that "radio-friendly" rock sound, and it wouldn't be surprising if this duo receives more attention in the year to come. Songs like "Best Days of Our Lives," "Tonight" and "All Over the World" are catchy, plain and simple. After a few listens, the songs get in your head and you can't help but hum along.

Recognizer is an excellent disc for playing at a party. Unfortunately, it doesn't offer much more to sink your teeth into.

The Organ
Sinking Hearts
Global Symphonic

While this is in no way a new CD, it seems appropriate to review because it is right around International Women's Day, and The Organ is an all-woman band.

If The Organ hasn't made it onto your musical radar, they certainly deserve to be there. Getting their name and much of their signature sound from the electric Hammond organ, played by Jenny Smyth, this Vancouver band finds themselves frequently compared to The Smiths and The Cure. These five women could easily find their music shunted into the "new wave" category and from there on ignored by either those who don't get exposure to or don't usually enjoy that style of music. But such hasty categorization would be doing a large disservice to both the band and potential listeners alike.

Their music and Katie Sketch's voice combine to create a sound that is gorgeous–both an excellent contrast and complement to the sometimes dreary or depressing lyrics. *Sinking Hearts* is one CD that everyone should hear.

A tale of action figure obsession

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Nic Hume photo

I am a 34-year-old action figure addict.

Ironically, as a child, I never really got off on toys of any kind. I preferred tree-climbing and exploring city streets on my bicycle to role-playing with the G.I. Joe or *Star Wars* figures Santa had brought me.

Now, over 60 carefully posed action figures inhabit the floor of my bedroom, and I find myself wishing that the nine-year-old version of myself had not so carelessly lost the 1979 Boba Fett figure, now worth over $1,500 to obsessive *Star Wars* collectors.

As pathetic as it may sound, many action figure junkies never even remove the toys from their packages. If a figure that wasn't manufactured in high quantities becomes a high demand item, it can fetch outrageous prices on eBay or at toy conventions–if it's still sealed in its original packaging.

Even more pathetic are toy-watchers, people who anticipate which toys will become rare treasures in the figure market. They corner the market on a specific toy, emptying the shelves of stores so that months or years later they can make a pirate's booty off the figure's then-inflated value.

For me, miniature plastic people are not commodities–they are little works of interactive art.

The action figure birthing process is an involved one.

First, the manufacturer decides on a creative concept–what the action figure will be, including the scale, the number of limb joint articulations, and whether or not it will have special action to make it punch or kick.

Then, artists draw detailed "turnarounds"–multiple illustrated views of the toy that show it from nearly every possible angle. Turnarounds give the sculptors a good idea of what the final product should look like. With the turnaround template to refer to, highly skilled sculptors shape various models.

Many toy lines that base their figures on actual people, such as Toy Biz's *Lord of the Rings* figures, actually use a computerized laser-scan of the actors face to enable the sculptor to create a closer likeness. This can take anywhere from one week to one month, depending on the complexity of the item and the number of designs involved. Often, several sculpted versions of a figure are created.

Once the toy company has decided on and approved the artisan's final sculptures, the prototype manufacturing begins, packaging design is developed and the toy company brings the finished product to national ToyFair events to see if retailers want to order them.

Yes, collecting action figures is an undeniably geeky, childish pre-occupation, but I have never met anyone of any age who could resist playing with my toys.

From pop-culture-based action figures–like the hundreds of *Simpsons* characters made by Playmates, to comic artist Todd McFarlane's NHL sports figure line–the appeal of these moving miniature sculptures is not only in their inherent aesthetics, but also in their tug at our imagination.

In ancient societies it was often a common practice to carry around scaled-down, sculpted versions of your family members or your gods–so why is it so crazy for me to keep a tiny Gollum in my pocket?

Death Wish Kids stuff your ears with razorblades

by Donald Kennedy

Death Wish Kids
Discography
Aerodrome

Listening to Andrea Zollo's voice is like having razorblades spat into your ears, but by the time she stops you're too amazed by the sensation to realize you're covered in blood.

Zollo's incredible vocals are what sell the Death Wish Kids, a band formed from the ashes of Seattle hardcore band Area 51 and who later laid the groundwork for the Murder City Devils and Pretty Girls Make Graves.

With Zollo is Sterling Callier, who is absolutely manic on the drumkit. Guitarist Dan Galluchi is more abusive than that wimp Uday Hussein could ever have hoped to be. Still, Zollo is the star.

Every song on *Discography* has unmatched energy and vocals that boil over with emotion. The 11 tracks are a collection of the band's entire Hopscotch Records (now Sound Virus) catalogue, which clock in at a total of around 13 minutes.

Far from being a disadvantage, the length of the album just adds to the already astonishing intensity and LAPD-style brutality.

Trying to compare Death Wish Kids to the current projects of its members is barely worth it, but for the sake of creating an aural image, let's just say Pretty Girls Make Graves is Andrea Zollo on Ritalin and the Death Wish Kids are the Murder City Devils if they robbed 7-11s for fun.

Take the song "Hood," which is about guitarist Galluchi's grandfather.

It features the line, "You're just a fucking hood drinking, gambling, stealing, cheating. I'm not an old man, but I would join you if I could."

There is also the wonderful "Outsider," a tribute to the character Dallas Winston from the young adult novel *The Outsiders*–a character who is synonymous with everything hardcore.

These are the tracks that define Death Wish Kids: full of blood, piss, shit and a self-destructive attitude.

The band members are a bunch of street rats looking for a fight, and you'll be glad to be the stupid fuck that got in their way.

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On sex and feminism

Porn star Ron Jeremy addresses students at Ontario college

by Mark B. Thomas

Heather Keene photo

Porn Star Ron Jeremy and photographer Heather Keene cozy up.

LONDON, Ont., (CUP) – He may have been 30 minutes late, but the 500 students who came to hear him speak couldn't have cared less– the Hedgehog was at Fanshawe College.

For nearly two hours, Ron Jeremy, star of over 1,500 adult films and sexual partner to some 4,000 to 5,000 women, spoke on topics ranging from societal expectations of female sexuality to the age of his oldest partner–for the record, he was in his forties and she was 87.

Any doubts about whether he would attempt to tread lightly around the language often associated with his movies were put to rest early on during his talk.

Jeremy, looking his slobby couch-potato best in a T-shirt and track pants, led listeners through a graphic retelling of a movie shoot in which the entire cast and crew were violently sea-sick. Everyone except Jeremy was vomiting, including his on-screen partner, but due to time constraints the director had them complete the scene.

After recounting some of his favourite moments and jokes, Jeremy opened the floor up to questions from the audience and he proved to be both candid and humorous.

If the question was suggestive or downright dirty, Jeremy was happy to respond in kind. On more serious topics such as questions regarding the public perception of adult film as degrading to women, he responded seriously, but always with a smile and a joke never too far behind.

Jeremy said adult film, and pornography in general, is an unfair target of the feminist movement.

"The feminists say the women in adult films are (turned into) sex objects. Well, excuse me, but there are men's penises in there too," he said, adding that female porn stars are paid much more than their male counterparts. "In fact, most of the people I work for in the business are women."

Jeremy added that feminists don't have to look far to find more worthy targets of their criticism.

"The feminists should be more upset by commercials, or G- or PG-rated movies that try to sneak sex in there," he said. "(Adult films) are the only ones who advertise 18 and over. We're the only ones being honest."

Jeremy went on to remark on the double standard of male and female sexuality.

"The double standard is there because of upbringing. When I was a school teacher, I'd meet the parents and you'd know exactly why (the kids) are the way they are," he said. "Parents think it's great if their son has girls chasing him. They think, 'Oh, that's great, look at all the girls chasing little Johnny.' But if it's a daughter being chased, it's 'Don't you dare. Don't you dare.' "

For a man in his line of work, Jeremy has old-fashioned values when it comes to the notion of true love, something he saw every day at home between his parents who were married for 35 years.

"(True love) is very powerful and very rare. I asked my dad, 'How do you do it? You know, 35 years being monogamous.' He said you have to think of different things to do," Jeremy said, before laughing that over two decades in adult film have left him with few options that qualify as new.

Both of Jeremy's parents were in the military, with his mother acting as a lieutenant in the Office of Strategic Service, a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Yeah, my mother was a spy," Jeremy said.

Born in 1953 in the Queens section of New York City, Jeremy went to Queen's College where he earned a B.A. in theatre, a B.A. in education and a Master's in special education.

His plan was to become an actor but after limited success in off-Broadway productions he decided to put his degrees to use by becoming a teacher. This career lasted until his girlfriend sent his picture in to the now-defunct women's magazine *Playgirl*.

The appearance in *Playgirl* led to more modeling in adult magazines, which led to performing in adult films. Jeremy estimates he has starred in over 1,500 films.

But curiously, Jeremy said the journey is slowly bringing him back to what he always wanted to be– a legitimate film actor. Throughout his career, Jeremy has tried to break through in Hollywood and he has appeared in over 65 Hollywood features. He said that, as Hollywood executives continue to loosen up about working with porn stars, his non-adult film acting work will continue to increase.

For now, Jeremy has trimmed his workload to approximately one adult film shoot a month, but he said he has no intentions of quitting.

"I am not gonna retire 'til the day it quits," Jeremy said.

Quickies a-plenty

by Richard McDevitt

Starsailor
Silence Is Easy
EMI

Starsailor's 2001 debut, *Love Is Here*, was especially hyped and well received by the press. It was tougher than Coldplay and easier to swallow than Radiohead. Unfortunately, the record sales couldn't live up to the hype.

Interest was renewed when reports of their second album revealed that the band was working on a few tracks with producer Phil Spector (Beatles, Claptom, Ramones). Famous for his "wall of sound," Spector seemed an appropriate candidate to capture James Walsh's searing vocal and songwriting talent on tape. Then, shortly after the band completed its work with Spector, he was charged with the murder of actress Lana Clarkson. Controversy is great for sophomore albums, but Walsh and crew refused to comment about the incident, though they maintained that they would still use at least two of the tracks worked on by Spector.

The ironic thing about *Silence Is Easy* is that Walsh's intent was to make a quieter follow-up to their first album. The physical arduousness of his vocals and marathon touring was straining his vocal chords. Walsh commented on the band's website that he would like to have a few songs that he could sing slouched over in a chair at eight in the morning and eat cereal. Walsh failed miserably.

Silence is Easy, while not unlike their previous album, is even more grandiose and epic. The Spector-produced title track is easily the most accessible and compelling song they've released, though it remains relatively free of Spector's trademarks. The other Spector track "White Dove" is more characteristic of his production and might be the only song that will give Walsh's vocal chords a rest.

The lead-off track "Music Was Saved" sets the rapid pace that is maintained through most of the record. The subject matter covered in the lyrics is very much standard: loss, heartache, injustice. But Walsh's voice saves it all from sounding mundane.

This sophomore album will certainly save Starsailor from falling into obscurity, but it probably won't shoot to the top of the charts. What they really need is a stellar third album.

The Thrills
So Much For The City
EMI

For five 23-year-old Dublin kids, the Thrills have released the most promising debut since five 23-year-old New York City kids called the Strokes released theirs in 2001.

The fascination with American culture present on *So Much For The City* derives from the band's obsession with American music and their four month vacation to San Diego, where they lived in a two-bedroom apartment on the beach and acquired their furnishings from the streets.

Whatever happened to the band members in those four months provided them with the inspiration to write this compelling album. Their sound is familiar, but it's impossible to compare them to any of their contemporaries. The Thrills are about as unique as you'll find these days.

So Much For The City is fraught with so many influences it's almost ridiculous. One minute, the bouncing lead track "Santa Cruz" sounds like the Beach Boys updated for younger listeners, while four tracks later "One Horse Town" echoes most of Motown's roster. Then the next track, "Old Friends, New Lovers," draws inspiration from Phil Spector's *Back To Mono*, but throws in a banjo for good measure. Describing this record as eclectic fails to do it any justice.

Although one might find lead singer Conor Deasy's sound a little childish at first, a few more listens reveals his sincerity, regardless of whether he's singing about sunsets or the coming and going of the ocean tides.

Even if you don't like these guys, *So Much For The City* is a hell of a lot better than anything fellow Dubliners U2 have done recently.

And on a side note, whoever was responsible for releasing this album in November is a fool. This is best summer album to come out since, well, summer has existed.

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Sport watching on the cheap

The Martlet's *guide to cheap, hot spectator sports*

BY RICHARD WARNICA

Cricket
Free, every Saturday and Sunday from April through September
Beacon Hill and Windsor Parks

Canada, it seems, is the only former British colony not obsessed with cricket. From India to Australia and through the West Indies, the game of wickets, batsmen and four-day test-matches is an obsession. Here in Victoria, the city more British than Britain, the game is far from dead.

Member clubs of the Victoria and District Cricket Association (VDCA) play competitive league cricket every Saturday and Sunday from April through September at both Beacon Hill Park and Windsor Park in Oak Bay.

For those hankering for some high calibre cricket, Alan Carter, President of the VDCA, recommends the Victoria International Six-a-Side (VISAS) cricket festival. The biennial 16-team tournament has teams from Bangladesh, New Zealand, England and other cricket hotspots play off in a weeklong competition for the VISAS cup. This year's tournament is to be held from Aug. 6 to 14 at Beacon Hill Park.

But for Carter the most competitive cricket in Victoria is the annual local "World Cup." For one weekend every summer, immigrant groups from cricket-loving countries form teams to compete against each other for the title of "Victoria World Champions." According to Carter the competition at this tournament is fierce.

Spectators are always welcome for any VDCA event and there is no charge to watch. For more information visit www.victoriacricket.ca.

Curling
Free, every night of the week
Victoria Curling Club, 1952 Quadra

What's cooler than being cool? Curling. Canada's second-most-popular ice-based sport isn't just for playing anymore. A sheet of ice, 16 stones and eight hard-moaning athletes make for one of Victoria's hottest spectator sports.

For while curling might not be the fastest game on ice it is certainly the most groan-inducing. For a daily dose of "hard, hard, hurry hard, whoa, whoa, easy, harrrrrrrrrrrr-rrrrrd," head to the Victoria curling club where every night features ice cold curling gold in a variety of leagues and brackets.

After just a few trips you too will be arguing the merits of the double-raise take out and the free guard zone rule.

For the first-time watcher, a good introduction to the game would be this weekend's Men's Bonspiel. The championship tournament brings 54 teams from as far away as Nanaimo and Chilliwack to compete for the Bonspiel title.

Games begin Thursday afternoon and carry on through the weekend. For more information call the Victoria Curling Club at 386-6396.

Lawn Bowling
Free, every Sunday
Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club, Carnarvon Park, between Henderson and Eastdowne Roads

Tired of indoor bowling, with its beer guzzling hoohas and sneering, smack-talking whippersnappers? Looking for something more sedate, well-lit and gentlemanly?

What you need is a more medium-paced and well-priced form of sports entertainment.

You need lawn bowling.

That's right, far from the trench-foot shoes, cock-rock tunes and suspicious clientele of the indoor bowling circuit is the laid back, outdoor world of the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club.

According to Barry Browning, president of the club, the game is more for playing than for watching.

But that doesn't mean that there isn't action to be had. Throughout the year the city's best bowlers gather for inter-club tournaments, a bowl-a-rific spectacle that has to be seen to be believed.

Browning says that visitors and spectators are always welcome, both at Sunday social games–every Sunday 11:15 a.m. onwards–and at the more serious tournaments. For more information visit www.bowl-soakbay.ca.

Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame
Free, every day
from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
4636 Elk Lake Dr.

Major F.E. Richardson was one of the greatest rifle shooters in Canadian history. In a distinguished career as a competitive shooter, Richardson won at least 262 medals and trophies and competed 17 times at Bisly, the Super Bowl of rifle shooting.

Never heard of him? You've obviously never visited the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame. The Hall doesn't have its own building, but it does have an exhibit at the Saanich Commonwealth Place.

In addition to Major Richardson, the Hall has exhibits on more than 100 other local athletes, including former B.C. women's bowling champion and two-time Victoria Athlete of the year Lorna Pollard and Cliff Thorburn, 1980 world snooker champion.

The Commonwealth exhibit also holds the Hall's extensive collection of artifacts. Highlights include photos, trophies and an odd pair of stand-alone bike seats that apparently belonged to 1934 world cycling champion Torchy Pedan and two-time Olympian Tom Morris.

In September of 2004, the Hall is scheduled to move to a more permanent home at the new Victoria hockey arena.

The current exhibit can be visited on the upper viewing deck of the Commonwealth pool from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Everitt an All-Star

OLIVIER ASSELIN PHOTO

Vikes guard Dani Everitt, above, was named a first team All-Star last week by the Canada West Athletic Association. Everitt's teammate and co-captain Krystal O'Byrne was picked on the second team. Both players finished their careers with the Vikes on Feb. 22 in a quarter-final loss to the SFU Clan.

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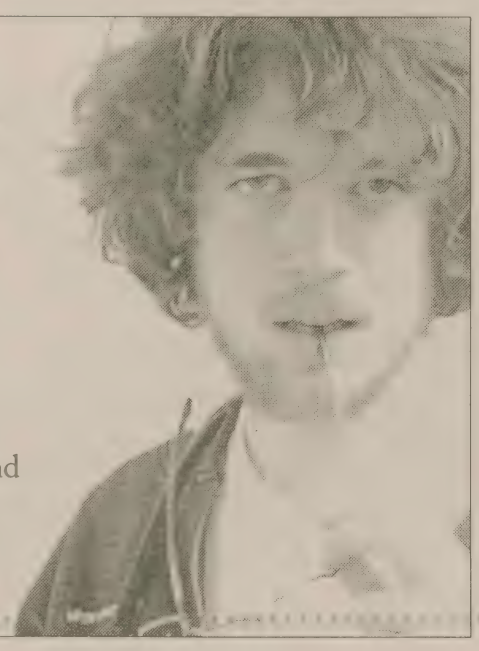
Who's the fairest of them all?

We want to know your pick for the top campus athlete of 2003-2004.

E-mail your choice to **sport@martlet.ca** and watch for our pick in an upcoming issue!



Vikes kick Burnaby Lake

Liz Estey photo

Vikes centre Matt Cohen kicks the ball out of trouble against Burnaby Lake last Saturday at Wallace field. Cohen had one try in the 46–12 Vikes win. Fly-half/fullback Mike Danskin and wing David Moonlight each scored twice for the Vikes, while wing Tyler Wish and fullback Bryan Sommer each scored once. The Vikes are now 7–6 on the season and in sixth place in the British Columbia Rugby Union Premier league. The team plays this Saturday against Capilano in Vancouver's Klahanie Park at 3 p.m.

Sports briefs

Field Hockey

Team Canada stacked with Vikes

Five members of UVic's silver-medal-winning women's field hockey team have been named to the Canadian Under-21 squad.

On March 1, Field Hockey Canada named second-year Vikes Robin Evans and Michelle Guiguet, and first-year players Katie Rushton, Mary Glen and Emma Carbury, as members of the team travelling to Australia later this year.

The team will play four matches against the Australian Under-21 squad and games against the Australian provincial teams of New South Wales and Queensland State.

Vikes coach Lynne Beecroft said in a UVic press release that the Australian tour will give the chosen Vikes "an opportunity to play against players who are highly skilled, which should make them even stronger players in the future."

Baggott brothers shine in final game

The Vikes men's field hockey team ended their club season with a 2–1 victory over Burnaby A last Saturday at UVic.

Goals from centre-forward Fred McGuinness and forward Mark Baggott led the team. For Baggott, and his brother Chris, Saturday's game was their last as Vikes. Both players are graduating this spring.

Chris Lane was named the man of the match.

In a Vikes press release coach Alan Williams said, "Our goalie, Rishie Mahal, said it best when he described our play as set and confident. We generated a lot of chances and moved the ball well."

Track and Field

Gold for men's relay

The UVic men's 4x800-metre relay team ran to gold last weekend at the Canada West Track championship at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

The team, made up of Josh Henderson, Craig Babiuk, Glenn Saqui and Scott Kennedy, won the race in 7:44.32.

It was the second medal of the meet for Henderson, Saqui and Kennedy. Henderson and Kennedy finished second and third respectively in the 600-metre, while Saqui took silver in the 1,500-metre.

Heather Goodfellow was the top finisher for the women, coming in second in the 3,000-metre race in a time of 10:22.00.

The women's team of Leah Burley, Nancy Fedoruk, Heather Burley and Andrea DePol won a bronze medal in the 4x800-metre race.

Correction

Last week's article "If he builds it, you will surf" incorrectly stated that Carl White's surf shop, Barracuda Surfboards, was located in Tofino B.C.

The shop is actually located in Victoria and most of its sales are done online, at www.barracudasurf.com.

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Lobsters and cheerleaders woo U.S. student athletes

Canadian athletes lose more than money on the U.S. exchange

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Not long ago, Willie Williams was just another American high school football player with a dream of making it big.

But after a successful senior year, the highly talented linebacker became the target for Division I college football. Williams was recruited hard by a number of Florida universities and he recently told his story to *the Miami Herald.*

His recruiting diaries recounted tales of steak and lobster dinners, police escorts and busloads of cheerleaders screaming, "We want you, Willie."

Apparently, this is standard procedure in the world of American college sports. But things are different here. In Canada, recruiting is considerably more low-key.

That's likely because there isn't a lot Canadian schools can offer prospective athletes. Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), the governing body of university athletics in Canada, has regulations that restrict athletic awards to tuition and fees. Merchandise, cash, loans and sponsorship are all expressly forbidden as enticements to attend a particular school.

But what about the lobster tails and steak? What about the private jets, fancy limos and packs of screaming students? Certainly these don't fall into the forbidden categories. After all, people need to get around somehow. People need to eat.

But alas, UVic and CIS, killjoys the both of them, have banned the golden swag. And, according to James Keogh, Interim Coordinator of Athletics at UVic, the big-money recruiting practices common in the States are just not necessary here.

But Ian Cruickshank, manager for both the men's and women's rugby teams, points out another issue. "There is no money to dish out," he said.

At UVic, coaches generally identify potential recruits and contact them through their current coaches.

Most recruiting is done long distance through phone calls and e-mails. Hence, no private jets or limos.

"Blue chip recruits"–highly sought-after academically and athletically gifted students–get the full meal deal. They usually get to come to campus and meet the team and coach, as well as complete some physical testing.

But the Canadian "full meal deal" is pretty paltry compared to the American feast. In Canada even blue chip athletes don't get wined and dined a la Willie.

UVic women's rugby team flanker and CIS first team All-Canadian Sara Postle is one of the athletes who got the full tour. Her talent earned her the Vikes "rookie of the year" award in 2002-2003 and a place on the Canadian Under-23 National Team.

The Ottawa native initiated contact with UVic herself. She sent out a player profile to UVic rugby coach Jack Eastbury and a number of other schools before deciding on UVic.

She confirms there was no fanfare surrounding her visit, saying she can't imagine having students cheer her name as she toured campus.

"I met with Jack, took a tour of the campus and practiced with the team," she said. "There was no lobster or steak."

THE COMPARISON

	U.S.	UVic
Transportation	Private jet $8,000 per hour	Greyhound, or a crowded flight $150
Meals	Steak and lobster dinner $250	Cafeteria $8
Transportation	Private limo $250 for four hours	Bus $5.50 day pass
Accommodation	Private suite at fancy hotel $250 per night	Some motel downtown $50 per night
Other	Cheerleaders Police escort Not cheap	What are cheerleaders? You're kidding, right?
Total for the school **Total for the athlete**	At least $9,000 US zip	zilch $250

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On campus

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What is your role in a global world???
Part of the UVic Ethical Consumption Awareness Day, hosted by WUSC UVic and VanCity Bank

People, Poverty & God: a Christian discussion group which explores the connection between faith and social issues. Every Monday at the interfaith chaplaincy (beside the bookstore) at 2:30 p.m. Come and discuss. For more info contact April: aprilg@uvic.ca.

FREE WORKSHOP
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Facilitated by Stacey Toews, Fair Trade Concepts
Thursday, March 11, 11 p.m.
Michèle Pujol Room, SUB
Part of the UVic Ethical Consumption Awareness Day

PRAISE & WORSHIP AND ADORATION Tuesday, March 9. Sponsored by the Catholic Students Association. Starts 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Chapel, UVic (near parking lot 6). All welcome!

UVic Circle K Volunteers Club. Want to be part of the World's largest university/college service organization?! Circle K is all about service, leadership, fellowship and having lots of FUN!!! Circle K is a great place to meet new people, work with children, students, adults and seniors, and a totally awesome organization to be part of! Circle K meets every Wed. in CLE A 301 at 301 at 6 p.m. So please come join us or contact Nellam Sandhu at neelams@uvic.ca for more information.

Make yourself useful! Help your student ambassadors with their annual Campus Clean-up on March 6 @ 10 a.m. You won't believe some of the stuff we find. . . .

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Stephen Whipp, Financial Planner
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www.youth.society.uvic.ca

Tatshenshini to Skagway Ski Traverse: From the Tatshenshini River across northwest B.C. to coastal Alaska – A slide presentation by Craig Hollinger. Hosted by the Vancouver Island Section of the Alpine Club of Canada, Thursday Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m., UVic Elliot Lecture Wing. Theatre 168. Tickets: $7 at the door.

Off campus

All ages Ska and Reggae Sat. March 6, 6:30 The Hoochie Girls, People's War, Madd Hatters, One Track Mind and Pomplemousse. $6 Door prizes! At the Garry Oak Room 1335 Thurlow Rd.

MONASTIC RETREAT DAY with the Poor Clare Sisters, Duncan B.C., Saturday March 6. Space is limited to 20 students: reserve your place by calling at 380-2795.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK – Sunday March 7, 5 p.m., Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Road) Bring a dish to share and meet other Catholic students from UVic and Camosun.

RON ROLHEISER LECTURE AND WORKSHOP: Friday March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Aiden's United Church: "Where is Now? Naming the Present Moment." Next day, Fr. Ron will present a day-long workshop at Holy Cross Parish, an exploration of growth and discipleship entitled "Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life." Special student rate: Friday lecture $5, Saturday workshop $15, weekend ticket $18. Tickets available at the Interfaith Chaplaincy, Campus Services Building. All students, staff and faculty welcome.

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Interviewer will be on campus Monday March 1 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Building (SUB) – Michèle Pujol Room.

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Announcements

The Victoria Shakespeare Society will be holding auditions for the summer festival's performances of *As You Like It* directed by Libby Mason and *Love's Labour's Lost* directed by Chris Moss March 20 and 21. Auditions by appointment only 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Denise at 995-5958 or e-mail theatrepeople@hotmail.com to book an audition. All auditions will be held in room A169 MacLaurin Building, UVic. Bring résumé and headshot and prepare one song (bring sheet music) and two contrasting Shakespeare monologues. If interested in backstage/crew positions, please specify when booking appointment.

The Senate Committee on the University Budget's 2003 Report and Summary of the Student Survey on barriers to Completion, as approved at the Jan. 9, 2004 Senate meeting, are available for viewing at the office of the University Secretary's website – web.uvic.ca/univsec/

Activist Video Night – "Underground: 1975" the story of the Weathermen Underground who violently opposed the U.S. goverment in the '60s & '70s. As opposed to the recent movie "Weathermen Underground" this 1975 film interviews their revolutionary student leaders while they were still being hunted by the F.B.I. 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 5, Camosun College (Lansdowne) Fisher Building Theatre, room 100. FREE, info – 595-3991.

Volunteers

Only the top 12 applicants will be accepted to provide support and information as volunteers on our sexual assault team. Training starts Feb. 24. Contact Tracey at the Women's Sexual Assault Centre 383-5545 or volunteers@vwsac.com.

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Heather: I have your friend's Pixies ticket. Get him to call me. No fakers, I know what this dude looks like. Michael 383-1685

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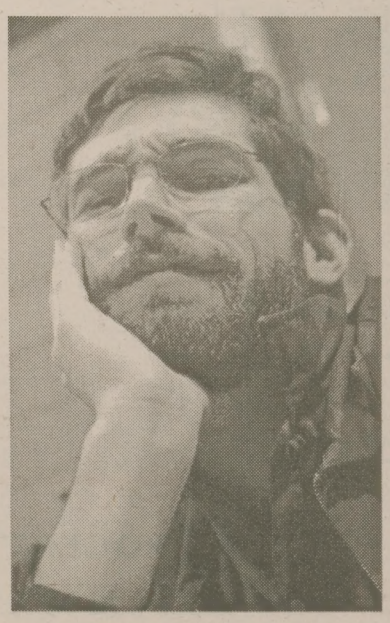
on the spot

Today's Question: **In regards to the engineers' "Order of Pi," what public figure would you most like to have pied?**

HARASSED BY GRAHAM STARK
PHOTOS BY NIC HUME

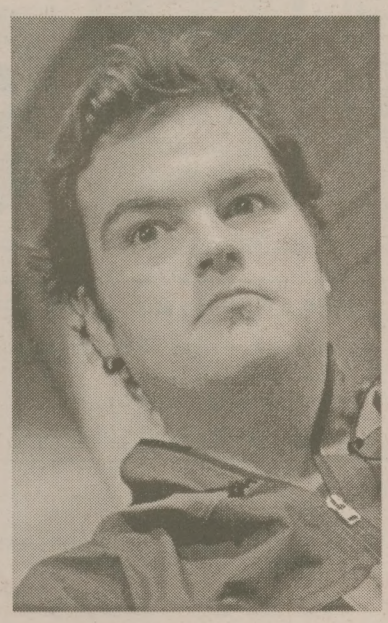
Rebecca Wood

RW: Hmm . . . it's hard to decide because there's so many. So many. There's not enough pie in the world. I think George W. Bush, but I'm sure everybody's saying that. Paul Martin would be good.
GS: What about someone non-political? Just someone you don't like very much.
RW: Ronald McDonald?
GS: Good answer.
RW: He was the guest of honour at the New York New Year's Eve party and he lead everybody in a big sing-along of "I'm Lovin' It." Pie would be good.



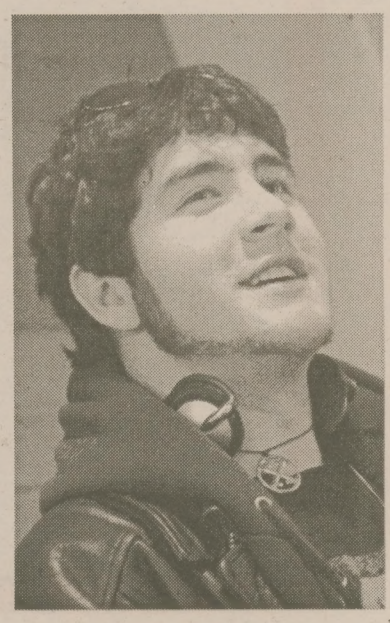
Christopher Sheaff (left) & Tom Woodsworth (right)

CS: I don't know.
GS: Come on.
CS: Honestly I don't have a good answer at all.
GS: Oh, come on. Any public figure, anyone.
CS: I'm trying to think of something funny, but no one's coming to my mind.
GS: Let's ask your friend who looks like Jack Black.
TW: Yeah, I get that about, two or three times a week.
GS: Well, who would you like to pie?
TW: Well, how about J.B. himself? Jack Black. Can I do that?
GS: Yeah.
TW: Okay, well he's one. How about someone on campus? I want to say Ingmar Lee . . . he's a nice guy, but he's too agro. He deserves a pie. But I can't say that cause he knows me. I'd be scared.
CS: Well, I'll say Ingmar then. If he gets angry, he doesn't even know who I am, so it won't matter. In fact, I'm challenging Ingmar Lee right now to answer my threat to pie him. I want to see protests against *me.*



Randy Gelling

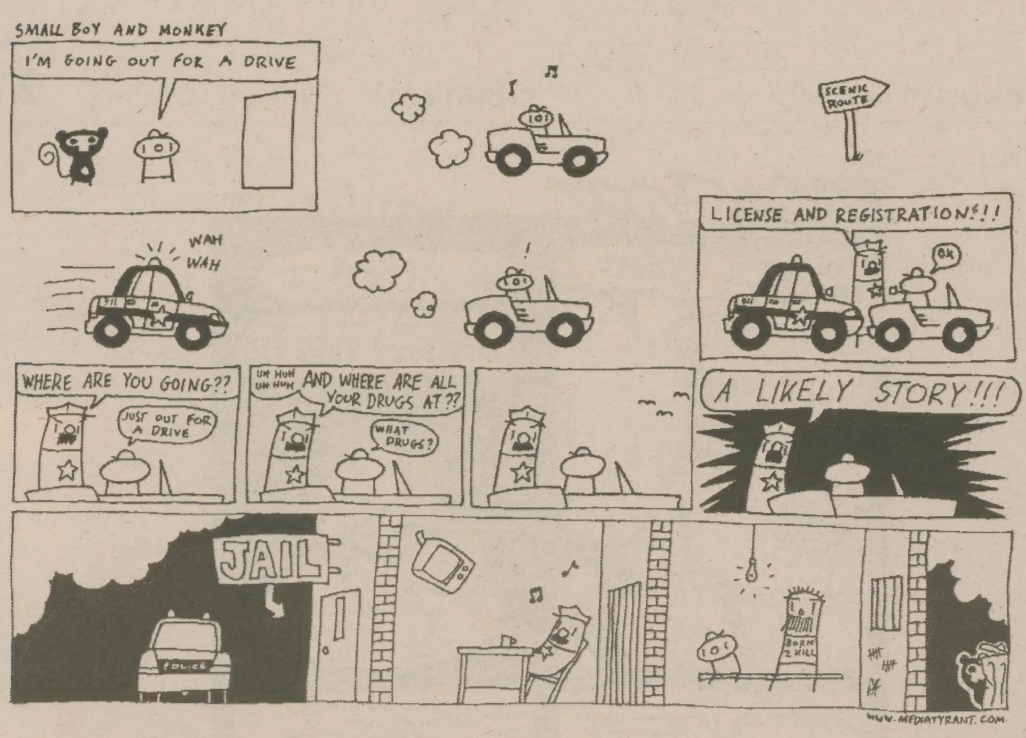
RG: Um . . . Bono.
GS: Any particular reason?
RG: He's an insufferable, arrogant fool. Did you know that he came to Paul Martin's "coronation"?
GS: Really?
RG: Yeah, he came and spoke. And I'm not usually xenophobic but what does an Irishman know about Canadian politics? Why is he there supporting Paul Martin? So, I think everyone should hate Bono now.
GS: Alright.

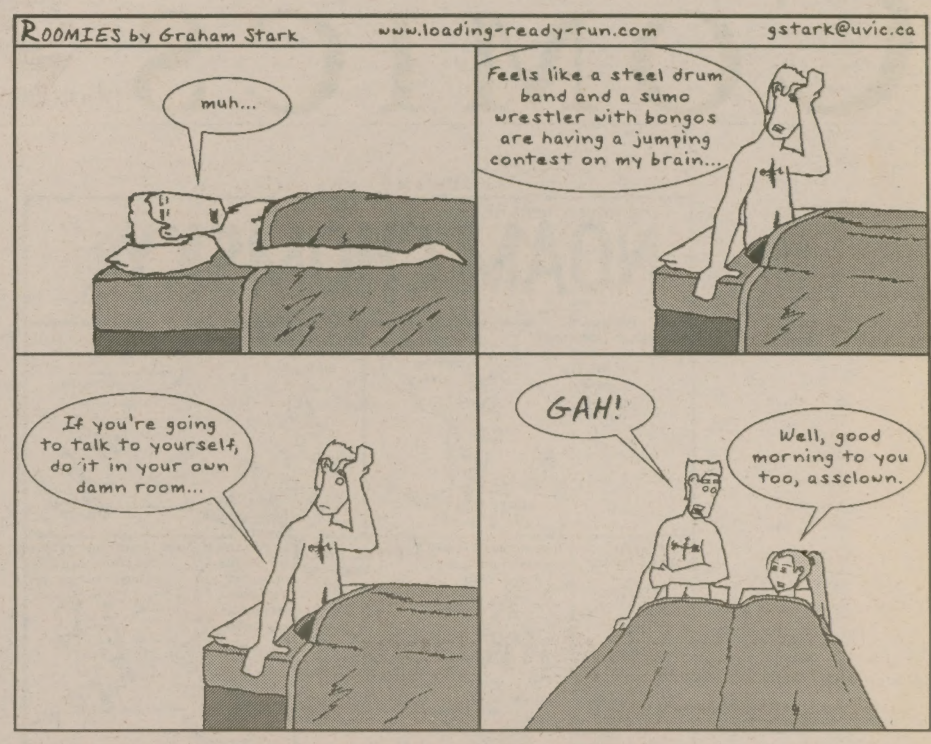


Shawn Hache

SH: I think most people would say it, and I would have to agree: Gordon Campbell. For tuition prices and all this nonsense.
GS: Anyone not political?
SH: I'd have to say one of my buddies, Mike Turner. You know who he is?
GS: Not offhand.

Due to past experience, the "Order of Pi" can't serve Gordon Campbell his just desserts. Shawn's friend Mike is fair game though.




ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
muh...
Feels like a steel drum band and a sumo wrestler with bongos are having a jumping contest on my brain...
If you're going to talk to yourself, do it in your own damn room...
GAH!
Well, good morning to you too, assclown.

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